Volume 30, No. 5, May 1998

carolina country

the monthly magazine of north carolina's electric cooperatives

CE50.5 /C297

Special Edition
See North Carolina

A 1998 Touring Guide

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The finest vacation you ever had - pages 10-12

An Important Announcement to North Carolina Homeowners with Equity . . . .

What Would You Do With An Extra $3,600 to $12,000 per year?

How to Get a Fast Mortgage Loan To Pay Off All Your Bills**

(Even If You've Been Turned Down By A Bank Or Mortgage Company)

Rockingham, N.C. - Ray and Becky were frustrated. They'd bought the house 12 years ago and it was five years old when they moved in. Becky laughed out loud when she thought back to that time. Back then it seemed so big and beautiful. But now, 12 years and 3 kids later, the house felt small and run down. The house needed a new roof and her two youngest girls, Emily and Katie, were doubling up in the small 10 x 12 bedroom.

Five years ago, Ray and Becky had a contractor come and talk to them about a new addition. Becky remembered how excited she and Ray both were. They even paid to have the plans drawn up. But that was the year before Ray lost his job at the plant. She poured herself another cup of coffee and recalled how depressed they both were. It was over a year before he got another job. And during that time, they got behind on everything.

No Summer Vacation

They were so strapped for money one summer, they couldn't even take Emily and Katie to the beach for a few days for their annual vacation. Sure they finally got all caught up when Ray went back to work, it took them two years and by that time it had ruined their previously perfect credit record, it was a vicious cycle. You know, getting paid on Friday, sitting down on Saturday to pay bills and running out of money before all the bills are paid.

"I Hit A Brick Wall"

After they got caught up they tried again to borrow the money for the addition. First they got turned down by the local bank, then a mortgage company in town rejected them. They just kept hitting the same brick wall. Even though Ray had gone back to work in another carpet mill making MORE money, the late payments that showed up on his credit reports scared the local banks and mortgage companies away. Ray felt like he was working JUST to pay his monthly bills and doing nothing for himself, Becky or the kids. Then he ran into Harvest Mortgage Company. Harvest helped him get a loan to pay off all his bills and consolidate everything into one single payment that was $358 lower than he had been making. That saved him a whopping $4,296 per year, TAX FREE. In the first year, that was enough money to close in the back porch, AND enough left over for new bikes for the kids.

Home Equity is the Key

Carole Eskew, Sr., V.P.

"If you have a minimum of 20% equity or more, there's a good chance we can help you save a lot of money every month by combining old bills and your old mortgage into one new and much lower payment. Or, we can help you get cash out of your home to buy a vacation home, start a business, whatever."

Compare your budget to this:

Amt.	Owed	Payment
$12,000	2nd Mortgage	$200.00
8,500	Auto Loan	375.00
2,000	VISA	100.00
2,000	MasterCard	100.00
$25,000	**Current Payment**	**$775.00**

-After Harvest Mortgage -

New Payment: $187.82/mo.

APR 9.077% / 30 yr. term

You Save: $587.18/mo., $7,046.16/yr.

** Rates subject to change*

"I couldn't believe it. We closed our loan 9 days after the first day I talked to them on the phone."

Debbie C., Dallas

"We ended up paying off all our bills and rolling them all into one single payment. After we did, our total monthly payments dropped by almost $400 per month."

Billy and Judy., Columbus

"Thanks to you and your great company, we feel reborn. Words can not express the relief we feel. We are so glad this battle with the bills is almost over."

James and Laurie C.

Recent Loans Include:

- A $45,000 loan to a borrower in bankruptcy.
- A $100,000 loan to a borrower who couldn't verify income through tax returns.
- A $95,000 bill-consolidation loan that saved the borrower over $8,100 per year and a whopping $124,000 over the loan period.

(No singlewides, please)

No Ivory Towers

"When you apply for a loan at Harvest Mort gage, your loan request is reviewed and dec upon by the people right in our office," says Harvest executive. He added, "Since we are direct lenders, we don't send the information some guys off somewhere in New York or California. We review and approve loans rig here in town locally."

Fast Approval and Closing

That means we can get your loan closed in a matter of days, and you never have to go out your living room until you're ready to close.

Loan For Purchase or Refinanc

Harvest Mortgage officials report that whet you are buying, refinancing a house, just looking to consolidate some bills, get cash f your property, they have created programs t give you the money you're looking for. Different loan programs include:

- Loans to Borrowers with good credit, w the most competitive rates in the countr These are available for purchasing a ne home or refinancing.
- Loans to borrowers with a lot of equity homeowners who have slow credit or ha even been bankrupt.
- Cash out loans for investment property a lot of equity.
- Loans for borrowers who want to do additions or remodel their homes.

Check This Out For Free

To see how much money you may be able to and exactly how much your payments would you can check it out by just picking up the p and calling us. Be sure to ask for Carolyn Re **1-800-972-LEND (5363)**. Or for a **FREE** re on **HOW Harvest Mortgage** can work for you, toll-free **1-888-697-LOAN (5626)** for a 24-hour recorded message. All of this doesn't cost you a c so you owe it to yourself. Don't put this off any l Do it now while you're thinking about it! You ha nothing to lose and everything to gain. Call Now

Harvest Mortgage Company I

Mortgage Bankers

North Carolina Residential Mortgage Lice

**Subject to Qualification

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In addition to years of virtually maintenance-free service,

today's electric water heaters

cost less to buy and install and

heat water faster than ever.

For more reasons why today's

high-efficiency water heaters

are your most economical and reliable water heating

choice, call your cooperative today. It's not

like they'll be busy fixing water heaters.

Cooperative Member

Mrs. Dean Sasser

"If I need another one,

I'll let you know."

North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives

Energy To Get Things Done℠

Serving 1.6 million consumers in 93 North Carolina counties

carolina *country*

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than 370,000 homes
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SEE North Carolina

A special edition of Carolina Country brought to you by North Carolina's electric cooperatives

We rolled along the country roads to the old tidewater towns, Edenton and Plymouth and New Bern and Swan Quarter, my father smoking Tampa Nuggets and spinning yarns for my amusement. He tried a little history on me, thinking to improve my mind: "The people here didn't like the British governor, and had a fight with the British on this bridge. He filled me with local lore: At Harkers Island over there, they make wonderful strong boats and go to sea in them."

Charles Kuralt
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On the Cover
Seeing North Carolina from the Blue Ridge Parkway.
(Picturesque /Steve Murray.)

Farmville welcomed me in its usual August way, a greeting with sunshine so bright, a heat so hugging and humidity so mugging it could set your carefully curled head all the way back to its natural kinky nap. The tar-licked roads seemed to stretch on endlessly, like the lazy summer afternoon. The old folks were sitting on the front porch, waving me on with one hand and swatting flies with the other. The overgrown gardens that used to provide pickings for a full year now just rambled aimlessly until they met up with a mile-high cornfield. Even the pungent smell of tobacco seemed as strong and familiar as a musty old friend.

Lorraine Johnson-Coleman
Just Plain Folks, 1997

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On the record

Excerpts from speeches given at the 1998 annual meeting of the National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association

March 8-11
Nashville, Tenn.

"Because we are educated"

Your hard work and dedication brought electricity to rural America and made the cooperatives a force to be reckoned with in the electric industry. You have shown your commitment to the youth of rural America by continuing to support the Youth Tour and other youth programs. We will never forget that and we will not forget to support the cooperatives in the future.

As cooperatives face the reality of deregulation, they must also face the reality that younger consumers will be choosing who their power supplier will be. Because we are educated about the advantages of belonging to electric cooperatives, we will have the knowledge we need to make them a part of our future.

Heather Jones, delegate
1997 Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington
Joe Wheeler EMC (Alabama)

First-hand knowledge

My place in Carthage (Tenn.) is served by an electric cooperative. My parents are served by one. I know first-hand the difference you make.

Al Gore, Vice President
United States of America
Message delivered by satellite broadcast

A national energy strategy

Does America need a national energy strategy into the next millenium? Of course we do. It's critical for our national security. It's critical for American world leadership and critical for the American way of life.

I suggest that there is no better time to act then right now, precisely because we are not in the midst of an energy crisis.

The Comprehensive National Energy Strategy (laid out by President Clinton and Energy Secretary Federico Pena) has five common sense goals. They are:

- Improving the efficiency of our energy system.
- Ensuring against energy disruptions.
- Promoting energy production and use in a manner that protects the nation's health and environment.
- Expanding energy choice through wise investment.
- Cooperating internationally.

Wally Beyer, administrator
U.S. Rural Utilities Service

Federal action in 1998? "No way."

Not everybody wins in deregulation. This is a zero sum game with winners and losers. I am very concerned that as the competition for large industrial, retail and commercial blocks of customers intensifies, the rural and residential customers pay the price. That is why Congress must go slow and be deliberative about this issue. This is bigger than the deregulation of the trucking, natural gas and airline industries combined.

I am a charter member of the newly formed Congressional Electricity Caucus. I joined this not because I favor fast and furious deregulation, but so that I am at the table when various members of Congress sit down and hash out this very important issue.

Despite the zeal of House leadership to move on [a restructuring] bill, be assured that there is just no way this legislation is going to be enacted this year. With a limited legislative schedule, and given the vast complexity of this issue, I cannot imagine the House of Representatives will be able to pass this bill. And, even if it does, the Senate has no immediate plans to take up deregulation.

Congressman Bob Clement (D)
5th District, Tenn. (Nashville)

Live by our principles

We cannot rest on our laurels. We cannot let the fact that our consumers are faithful make us complacent. We know that we have to stay on our toes as we meet head-on the legislative and regulatory challenges hurtling toward us. And we know the competition will try to trip us up.

We cannot let the fact that we're local become a wall to hide behind. We know that consumers today do not trust big, distant corporations. Consumers are looking for someone they can trust. They can trust us, and they will, but only if we live by our principles and remain open to new ideas.

We cannot let the fact that we are small keep us from thinking big. We must continue to deliver state-of-the art technology.

Our vision for the future is one that constantly reminds people of the difference we make in their lives. If consumers understand that they are benefiting by belonging to a cooperative, then we can be assured of more than survival. We can look forward to growth and success.

Glenn English, CEO
National Rural Electric Cooperative Assn.

CLICK!... THANKS BUT NO THANKS!
WE'RE STAYING WITH OUR CO-OP... EVERYBODY ELSE PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE AFTER THE BEEP....
PLAY
SAVE
Messages
Donna Hardy © 3-98

Recipes on-line

I lost my November copy of Carolina Country which had a recipe for pecan pie prepared by Gov. Hunt's chef. I made several of these pies during the holidays, much to the amazement and delight of family and friends. I was preparing to once again bewilder the members of my church only to find no Carolina Country.

I was very pleased to see that you have not only a Web page, but one that allows us to correspond with you. If you can supply me with the recipe I would greatly appreciate it.

Bill Griffin
Union EMC

We sent Mr. Griffin the recipe by e-mail. All of "Chef Bob's Holiday Recipes" were posted on our Web site for a while. There are plenty more there in the "Carolina Kitchen" Web pages: www.ncemcs.com

We are in a time capsule, exceeding the speed of life

I read with amusement the article about "The Good Old Days" ["Commentary," February 1998]. I really enjoyed it. I love my electricity, too. I love all the conveniences that come with it. But when people talk about the good old days, I don't think they mean all the hard labor that came with it. I know it could not have been fun to get up in the mornings, haul water from a branch or spring, heat it up in a wash pot, and take the rest of the day to do the washing. It definitely was not any fun to take an empty bucket, walk down a hill for about a fourth of a mile, and then back up the hill with a full bucket of water. Or was it?

I can remember going down the hill with a lot of zest, but as I would come back up, I would get tired and have to set my bucket down. That's when the fun would begin. I would explore the wilderness on my way back up that path, find all kinds of wildflowers, see squirrels, rabbits and sometimes snakes. I wasn't too crazy about the snakes, but they came with the territory. I have no idea how long it would take me to go get water, but I'm sure Mama needed it before I would get back with it.

I remember going to a gully thathad grape vines hanging from it, and taking a vine and swinging on it and yelling like Tarzan. That was the reddest dirt you have ever seen in your life, and I would be covered with it when I would go back to the house.

You didn't have a lot of toys in the good old days. You had to make up things to do. Your mind didn't get overloaded like it does now. The young ones have skateboards now; back then we would walk barrels. Now they have bought swings; back then we had a tire hung on a rope.

The good old days had their good points and bad points just as we do today. I just wish we could have the modern conveniences today with the simplicity and love for people that they had back in the good old days. Back then people would help each other out; these days people are too pushed up and busy to help each other out. We are traveling in a time capsule now that is exceeding the speed of life. We need to slow now and revisit some portions of the good old days. Before we know it we will have been the ones who lived in the good old days.

Some changes are good. And while I'm writing, I would like to apologize to Carolina Country. When you changed your style a few years back, I was highly opposed to it. I wrote and told you that some things should not be changed; it was a good book the way it was, so why mess it up. Well, I have to admit I was wrong. It is one of the most interesting books that we get. And I think everyone that gets one around here enjoys it. Keep up the good work.

Diane J. Wilkerson
Oxford

Advice on insulating manufactured homes

I would like to say a special thank-you for the "Consumer's Guide to Manufactured Homes in North Carolina." [April 1998]

I am a registered housing specialist (salesperson), and I sell all energy-efficient homes. I can appreciate the ElectriCheck label for energy-efficiency. Most sales centers can order as much or as little insulation as they want from a factory. At closing, each buyer will have a form to sign showing how much insulation the home has in it, no matter where he buys it or the brand. There's a lot of energy-efficient housing on the market today. Shopping around is what it's all about.

Elaine Spencer
Cherryville

More power to you

Co-ops say all must benefit from a competitive system

North Carolina's electric cooperatives are urging state officials to assure that all consumers will reap the benefits of competition in the electric utility industry if restructuring is authorized by the General Assembly.

In written comments submitted to the Study Commission on the Future of Electric Service in North Carolina, the co-ops said any system allowing customer choice in the purchase of electricity must deliver to all consumers the kind of safe, reliable and cost-effective service they enjoy today.

The cooperatives are concerned that deregulation could leave their consumers with few choices of power providers because of the limited profit potential of the co-ops' largely rural and residential territories. Under restructuring, the co-ops argue, electric service will remain available in rural territories but power marketers are unlikely to set their sights on these less-than- lucrative markets.

> We have been led to believe that with deregulation there will be a dramatic rate reduction. But I don't think that will happen. (Big businesses) stand to gain the most from it. That's usually who pushes the hardest for something like this. But I don't believe small users are going to get a lot out of it.
>
> *R. B. Sloan Jr.,*
> *Executive Vice President*
> *Crescent EMC*
> *From the Statesville Record & Landmark newspaper*

The comments were issued by the North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation (NCEMC) and the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives (NCAEC) on behalf of the state's 28 local distribution cooperatives.

Other recommendations in the NCEMC/NCAEC document included:

- Deregulation must provide adequate consumer protections governing fraud and abuse.
- Firm territorial boundaries must be established for distribution of electricity to avoid needless duplication of facilities.
- To assure that there is meaningful competition in rural areas, co-ops must be allowed to provide services comparable to those available from other suppliers.
- An Independent System Operator (ISO) must be established to assure fair treatment for all parties who make use of the power transmission grid.
- Consumers who elect "not to choose" a power provider should continue to receive service from the incumbent supplier.
- Electric service should continue to be available to everyone who may reasonably be connected to a utility's distribution lines.
- To assure that safety, reliability and consumer protection are maintained, metering should remain the responsibility of each consumer's incumbent distribution utility.
- To protect the interests of the consumers, distribution companies should continue to oversee billing and collections.
- No impediments should be set up to limit consumers' right to use existing cooperatives and to form new cooperatives or other organizations that will represent their collective interests in a competitive electric utility marketplace.

Competition could bring new members to co-ops

Research conducted in February indicates that people nationwide would rather receive residential electric service from a member-owned utility than an investor-owned one.

An Arkansas firm commissioned by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association surveyed 491 people in 45 states who receive home electrical service from investor-owned utilities, such as Duke Power and Carolina Power & Light. Some of the results are the following:

- 73 percent said they are likely to choose a company that returns profits to customers instead of investors.
- 64 percent want a utility that gives customers a voice in how the company is run.
- 62 percent say they would prefer a company that is locally owned and controlled.

Statewide programs and people are recognized for political work

North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives, Inc. was a big winner at the 56th annual meeting of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association held March 8-11 in Nashville.

NCAEC won two top awards: one for an individual's lifetime achievement in political education and another for exemplary grassroots action in 1997.

James Lee Burney wins Matson Award

James Lee Burney, recently retired manager of government relations for NCAEC, was the 1998 recipient of the William F. Matson Democracy Award.

The Matson Award recognizes outstanding accomplishment and service to cooperative electric utilities through political action and education.

continued next page

Mike Sorohan

James Lee Burney (left) accepts Matson award from NRECA president Jim Baker.

Well known and respected at the State Capitol in Raleigh and in many state and federal agencies, Burney joined the staff of NCAEC in 1973. He managed both the federal and state government relations program the state's 28 electric cooperatives. He also founded the NCAEC political action committee.

A graduate of Clarkton, N.C. public schools and North Carolina State University, Burney served in the U.S. Army, 1957-59, and was a highway engineer for the North Carolina State Highway Commission. He was awarded a Harriman Fellowship at Columbia University, New York City. He began his career in politics and public service as staff director of URGENT, United Resources Get Education Needs for Tomorrow, and then executive director of the North Carolina Young Democrats. He went on to the North Carolina Fund, an anti-poverty agency established by then-Governor Terry Sanford, where he held several staff positions, including assistant secretary and treasurer, and director of administration. The program served as a model for many community action agencies across the country.

Active in electoral politics, Burney served as personal campaign assistant for Hargrove Bowles, North Carolina Democratic candidate for governor. He also was president of North Carolina Research and Development Corporation, a consulting firm to foundations and research groups in the areas of rural transportation, education, and African-American economic development.

Endorsing Burney's nomination, Gov. James B. Hunt said, "Throughout his career, James Lee Burney has worked hard for the people of North Carolina and the electric cooperatives that serve them. He never lost sight of what mattered most to the people of our state."

NCAEC gets Community Service award

The national association's Community Service Network gave NCAEC the ACRE and Grassroots Action Award. It recognizes North Carolina's development of a grassroots political organization, fostering increased dialogue and interaction between member cooperatives, and increasing membership in ACRE, the political Action Committee for Rural Electrification.

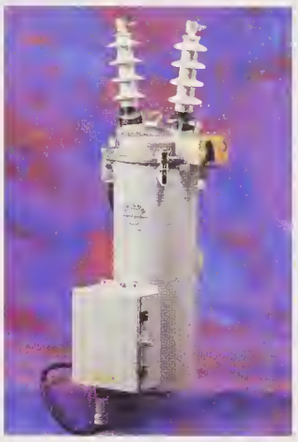
The grassroots effort included a "Rally in Raleigh" when more than 200 cooperative board members and staff visited elected officials to support legislation to protect co-op service territories.

In response to a demand for information, NCAEC launched new publications for co-op officials and employees, as well as videotape. (NCAEC also publishes Carolina Country magazine.)

NCAEC chief executive officer Chuck Terrill said, "Electric cooperatives have been community activists since their inception. Now are we recognizing it as grassroots and realizing its true value. Our grant program for educators, called Bright Ideas and "interAction" newsletter, as well as other statewide-supported programs will continue to be a focus of resources and energies in 1998 and long into the future."

The Community Service Network award.

More than 12,000 representatives from cooperative electric utilities across the nation attended the four-day meeting in Nashville.



Typical single-phase recloser.

Warren County recloser retires

Halifax Electric in Enfield recently retired the oldest recloser in the U.S. The recloser was nearly as old as the co-op itself, having served consumer-members for 50 years. It last worked in Warren County, a mile north of Hwy. 158 between Macon and Oakville.

A recloser is an automatic switch that provides optimum reliability of a power supply to consumers. They are installed on poles and in substations, according to factors such as the density of users in an area. A recloser resembles the cylindrical transformers seen on many roadside poles. It works like a circuit breaker in your house. If a fault or "short" occurs in a power line, the recloser opens temporarily to break the passage of power. The recloser remains open while it tests the line to determine if the trouble has ended. (About 85 percent of trouble occurrences are temporary, such as lightning, wind-blown limbs or animals.) If the fault repairs itself, the unit "recloses," allowing power to resume passing in the line. Reclosers allow the fault several opportunities to repair itself, but if the trouble is permanent, the recloser remains locked open until a lineworker makes the repair.

Cooper Power Systems of Waukesha, Wis., who supplies Halifax with its reclosers, each year rewards the utility who retires the oldest recloser in the nation. Cooper's Kyle Classic (™) Program typically offers utilities a credit toward the purchase of a new recloser upon the retirement of units that are 25 years old or older. Additionally, Cooper gives a free recloser to the utility who turns in the oldest unit in a calendar year.

"The policy here at Halifax EMC," said general manager Michael E. Finney, "is that if only minor repairs were needed to restore a unit to service then we would repair it. If major repairs were required on an older unit, however, we would scrap it and save the nameplate for trade-in."

The 1947 Halifax EMC recloser was used in numerous locations around the co-op's system over the years.

The right place at the right time

The finest vacations you ever had

If you know people who believe that family values and loyal friendship have faded from our society, show them these three pages.

Some 200 readers sent us letters remembering the finest vacations they ever had in North Carolina. Nearly all of the writers valued their companions as much or more than their destinations. It all goes to show that being with the right people at the right time and in the right North Carolina place adds up to an experience you will never forget.

Just reading these letters was an experience our judges and I will never forget. I can't tell you how many brought tears to my eyes or made me laugh out loud.

Another noticeable theme in these submissions is a heartfelt appreciation for pure nature. Many of you felt spiritually revived in unspoiled woods, mountains, streams, meadows, lakes, coastal marshes and ocean beaches. We can all do our best to keep those values from fading, too.

Thanks to everyone who sent us letters and pictures. I wish we could publish them all. Next month we'll run a selection from those recalling "The Finest Job I Ever Had." (The deadline was April 15.) There's still time to submit something for the July group, "The Finest Meal I Ever Had." (See page 12.) We pay $50 for each of those we publish.

Maybe you can take these pages with you for entertainment when you're in the car with your family or friends, headed for one of the many wondrous places within North Carolina. Let us know how it turns out.

—MG

Where I come from

College students love spring break. Skiing in Colorado, tanning in Florida, cruising in the Bahamas. My sophomore year at UNC-Chapel Hill brought all the usual stress, especially before spring break. Where to go? St. Simon's Island, Ga.? Myrtle Beach, S.C.? My destination was Robbins, N.C., my home.

Eight years later and I still remember that week away from school. The weather was sunny and beautiful, and the company relaxing. I remember one day in particular. I was sitting outside at the picnic table with a book, the family dog at my feet and the sun in my face. I went back to school totally relaxed and with a deep appreciation of where I come from.

Leslie Shields
Robbins
Randolph Electric

The one that didn't get away

Our finest North Carolina vacation was never planned, it just happened.

On Friday morning, Oct. 26, 1990, Pappy (Clayton Swicegood, a former teacher and my fishing buddy for 27 years), and I stepped out of our motel room in Buxton, N.C. and saw a 5-gallon bucket floating down a river that had been Highway 12 the night before. One quick question (unprintable) got the answer. The huge Oregon Inlet bridge was history. Hundreds of southbound cars and four-wheel-drive fishing vehicles jammed the roads and gas stations and were fleeing Hatteras Island and heading to Ocracoke.

Pappy and I made a quick assessment of the situation. We came here to drum fish for four nights and we intended to do just that. So fish we did. The extra 12-volt batteries in the truck supplied the only electricity that we had. We had running water (cold) in the room, and after the first night we had Doug Meekins' Falcon Motel, Bob Eakes' Red Drum Tackle Shop and essentially the entire Hatteras Island to ourselves. The Buxton Fire Department and the good people of the island fed us like kings for free. For four days they fed us three meals a day of eggs, bacon, ham, oyster stew, clam stew, crab stew, drum stew, fried fish, potatoes and homemade bread. You name it, they fed it.

Four nights later we were driving off Cape Point for the last time just before midnight, having caught some of the biggest drum that we had ever caught, and I will never forget what I felt and what I said to Pappy. I told him, "For the first time in 15 years, I remember who I am."

Steve C. Sink
Linwood

Clayton Swicegood
Lexington
Davidson EMC

Beach buggy boogie

We took a vacation to Long Beach, N.C. in April of 1995 when our son Maverick was 2 1/2 years old. We took his new Hot Wheels Jeep and our dachshund, Andydog. Maverick and Andydog were excited to be on their own and free to cruise the beach. They attracted the attention of everyone in sight, but were too caught up in the moment to notice the onlookers and the attention they were attracting on the beach.

Maverick drove up and down Long Beach (at low tide, of course) until the batteries ran down. But as soon as the batteries were re-charged (and our son re-charged from the nap he took), they headed out again to explore the seaside and sandy beach.

Jill H. Gunter
Bear Creek
Randolph EMC

With Mama

To me, vacation is a time away from evening farm chores, a time of remembering and getting reacquainted. The finest vacation I ever had began 10 years ago when my 79-year-old mother had her first heart attack. My youngest sister, who lived with her, worked the evening shift at a plant. My mother lived about 20 miles from me and could not be left alone. I am the oldest of her 10 children, and having been married over 40 years with all grown children, I was able to spend evenings with her.

Together in memory we relived all the days of her life and, of course, mine. She had such a sharp memory. She forgot nothing.

We went through her old trunk and Grandma's old trunk, and she told me the story behind each treasured keepsake. We spent hours going through picture albums, laughing, crying, remembering. We entered into a very ambitious project to complete a quilt for each of her grandchildren. This project proved to be too much, with 32 grandchildren and all the greats, although we did about half of her grandchildren.

On pretty evenings, we visited kinfolks and friends or went on leisurely sightseeing tours. Then, of course, we went to church as often as she was able. Each day ended with Bible reading and prayers and a goodnight kiss, followed by pleasant conversation until Mama fell asleep.

This time went on for about four years. Now my precious Mama is in heaven, and I remember with a thankful heart this special vacation I spent with her.

Geraldine O. Fisher
Lake Toxaway
Haywood EMC

With Opa and Oma in Lenoir

Mommy and Daddy each kissed a cheek as they sat me behind the Greyhound bus driver. My orange plastic pumpkin was full of candy from Halloween 1969. I could tell Mommy was a little leery of letting her 5-year-old boy get on a bus bound for Lenoir. I was a little frightened, but I knew my grandparents would be waiting to pick me up at the station.

Twenty-nine years have past but the memory of my five-day vacation has not faded. Early each morning my Opa would pick vegetables from the garden, and I would carry the bucket 'til it was too heavy to pick up. Then I would chase little black ants with a piece of wheat straw. Later we would go trout fishing on Wilson's Creek, ride to the post office or sweep leaves from the driveway. It didn't matter if Opa was trying to find a screw in a bucket, I wanted to help him.

My Oma was always glad to let me crack the eggs for a cake she was baking or dust the furniture. At the time, I never understood why she kept following behind me with a rag of her own. At night I would gather an armful of books and Oma would read as I lay on the pillow beside her.

Now I am happily married with a 3-year-old son. When I take him to see Oma and Opa, I watch him as he listens in awe to Opa's stories that I know by heart. I see Oma smile as Landon brings her an armful of books. Once again I am brought back to realize the important things in life.

Dane Howard
Davidson
Crescent EMC

Falling in love again

One day last spring our lawn needed mowing, there was wash, chores and shopping to do, but instead we took a Saturday vacation. Our family had been going in different directions. The children were involved with several activities, my husband had been working long hours and I had been too busy caring for them.

So that Saturday, we decided to go to Stone Mountain. Stone Mountain might not seem like a vacation spot, but for our family it was.

As we hiked the trail to the top of Stone Mountain, something beautiful happened. We began to talk. We began to be a family again. The air was crisp and the sky so blue you felt as though you could reach out and touch it. When we arrived at the gorgeous waterfalls, our children couldn't help but take off their shoes and put their feet into the ice cold water. Their joyful laughter and my husband's face of wonder when he looked up and saw the rock climbers are something that I will always remember. Our family fell in love with North Carolina that day.

That day I learned again to appreciate my husband and family, and I remembered to appreciate the simple beauty of nature. I learned some vacations are priceless because of the wonderful memories they bring.

Kathy Thomas
Statesville
Crescent EMC

Crystal clear

My favorite vacation memories are of our yearly trips to White Lake in the mid-1960s. My mother and her sister were very close, and our families always vacationed together the week of July 4. The trip to White Lake was an adventure in itself: four adults and three children in one car with no air conditioning. There were no interstates, and my father tried to "create" roads on the map.

At White Lake, we rented a small redwood cottage. My cousin and I shared a bed. We loved to jump on the bed and sing "Oh, How I Love Jesus." One night we jumped so much

continued next page

Nothing could be finer

Crystal clear *continued*

that we broke the bed and fell to the floor laughing.

Every morning we had a big breakfast that included my father's specialty, "thickening gravy." I had a slight speech problem, and when I asked for gravy, it sounded like I was saying "sickening gravy." This is still our family's nickname for gravy.

I remember family time at the pool, the crystal-clear lake, riding in a glass-bottomed boat, and wearing a life jacket in knee-deep water because my mother had a terrible fear of the water.

Life was so simple then. It was not necessary to go to a lavish resort to have a good time. I am 38 now, and I deeply appreciate the sacrifices my parents made to provide vacation memories that still bring me great pleasure. I dedicate this story to my parents, Ernest and Betty Huntley, with love.

Linda McMurray
Rutherfordton
Rutherford EMC

Through her eyes

Ray and I have shared many vacations in North Carolina and elsewhere. The one that will forever stand out is our fall vacation of 1992. We took Ray's mother to the beach. She was 85.

Born and raised in the mountains of Wilkes County, she had never seen the ocean. We chose the fall of the year so the beaches were not too crowded or the weather too hot.

We love Kure Beach, so we decided to take her there. We knew she would enjoy the beautiful beach as well as nearby attractions — Fort Fisher, the N.C. Aquarium, USS North Carolina — as well as really great places to walk. She loves to walk.

Experiencing it through her eyes made it more exciting than anything we had ever done. We also gave her something to remember, too.

Brona Church
Millers Creek
Blue Ridge EMC

Leaving dry land

A 1982 trip to the Outer Banks was my most memorable N.C. vacation. Although I'm one of God's least athletic creatures, hang gliding looked like fun. After instruction, we beginners trudged to the dunes. Unfortunately, it was not to the first dune, but to the farthest. Arriving last, I was pooped. I soon found that I lose all sense of orientation when my feet leave the ground. When the instructor yelled, "Lean left" or "Turn right," I didn't have a clue where left and right were. After several attempts, I was finally getting the hang of it when I crash-landed, hard.

Later, my friends rented some sort of sailboat. (I'd say what kind, but I know nothing about sailing, either.) Halfway across the sound, the tiller fell off. One of the guys reached for the emergency oar, but it had dry rotted. With perfect timing, the sun slipped behind ominous clouds, the wind picked up, thunder rumbled. We headed helplessly toward a bridge and some low-hanging power lines, our tall mast pointing toward the Maker I was sure we were about to meet. But the others on board really did know how to sail and managed to land us in this world instead of the next.

Why was this my finest N.C. vacation? Because for a rather timid soul like me, it provided adventure I probably would have otherwise never experienced.

Audrey L. Bollero
Statesville
Crescent EMC

Send us your stories and photos. Earn $50.

Here are the themes and deadlines for the coming months of "Nothing Could Be Finer." You don't have to be a superior writer to send us a letter. Put your heart into it, as the writers this month did.

The Rules

1. Approximately 200 words or less.
2. Only one entry per household per month.
3. Typed or e-mail, if possible. Otherwise, make it legible.
4. Include your name, electric co-op, mailing address and phone number.
5. If you want your entry returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. (We will not return others.)
6. We pay $50 for each submission published.
7. Send to Nothing Finer, Carolina Country, 3400 Sumner Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27616. Or by e-mail: carolina.country@ncemcs.com

July

The Finest Meal I Ever Had
(We're talking North Carolina food here.)
Deadline: May 15

August

The Finest Lesson I Ever Learned at School
(Any grade, any school.)
Deadline: June 15

September

The Finest Pictures of North Carolina, a photo contest.
(North Carolina people and places. Color or B&W.)
Deadline: July 15

October

You're So Fine: Why I Like My Electric Cooperative
(What does your electric cooperative mean to you?)
Deadline: August 15

November

The Finest North Carolina Gift You Can Give
(Made in North Carolina.)
Deadline: Sept. 15

December

The Finest Story in North Carolina History
(Historical truths, humorous or otherwise.)
Deadline: Oct. 15

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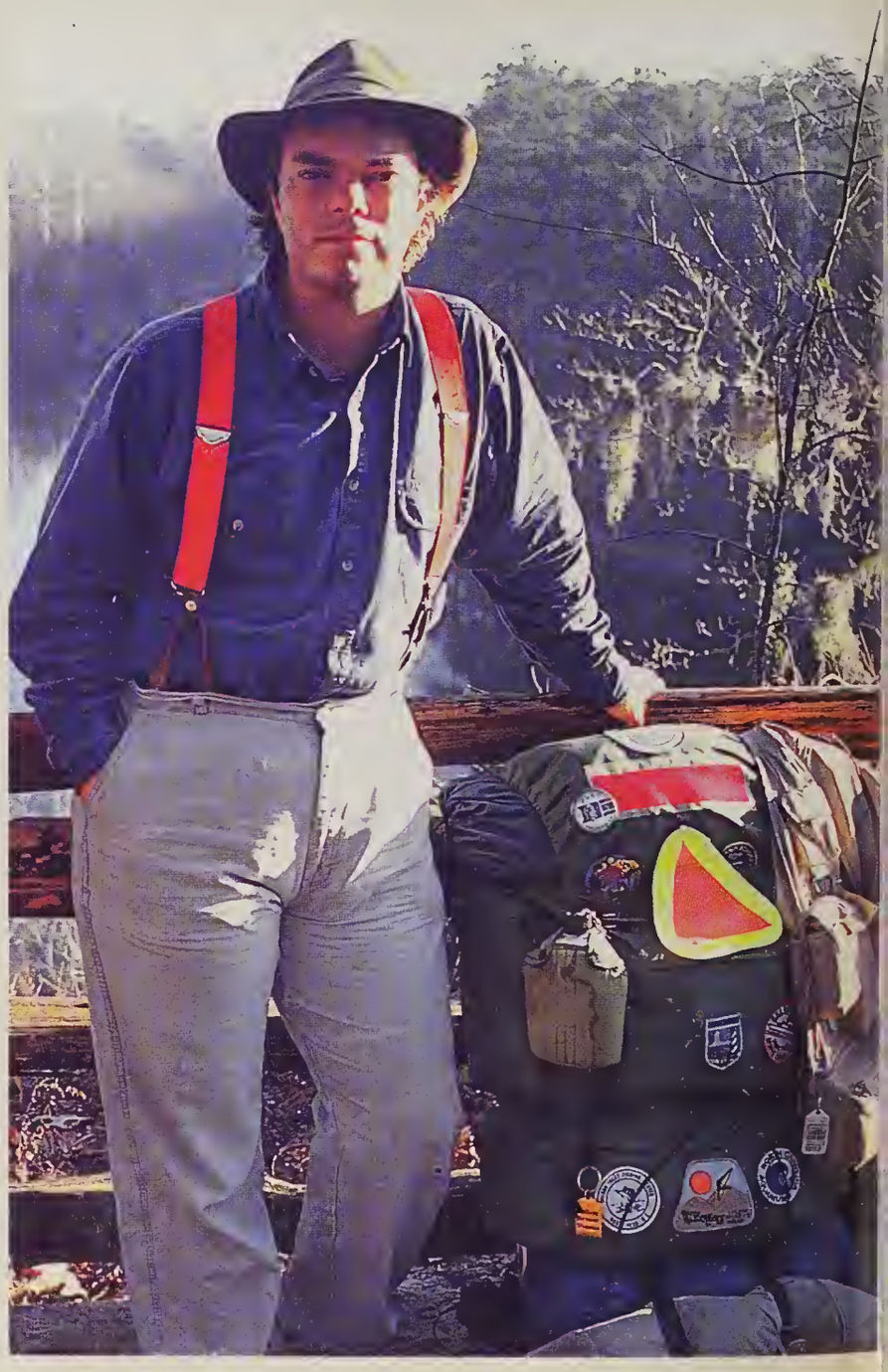
Seeing North Carolina on foot

The photographs of Marty Harris

Interview by Jimmy Tomlin



"As long as you're walking and taking your time, you can see little things that appear beautiful."

Marty Harris
Photojournalist afoot

Marty Harris was in fifth grade when he began seeing the world through the lens of a camera. His first camera wasn't much to brag about - a $5 Kodak Instamatic he bought for a class field trip to Asheville's Biltmore House - but it launched an obsession that developed into a profession.

"If I ever saw a landscape or something I liked, I'd just take a picture of it," says the 36-year-old Statesville native. "I'd shoot clouds, a blade of grass, a mailbox — anything, really."

He eventually graduated to a 35mm camera, which he used to shoot pictures for his high school and college yearbooks. He also began doing freelance work for The Charlotte Observer, Ballooning magazine and other publications. Then he spent five years as a staff photographer for the Statesville Record & Landmark, before burnout overtook him.

"I always said if photography ever became work, then I would get out of it," Harris says. So he left the newspaper in 1985 and embarked on his dream of publishing a photo book.

Initially, Harris spent three months driving across North Carolina taking pictures. "I had some pretty good shots," he recalls, "but I thought I had missed a lot by driving."

So two years later he set out on foot, carrying a monstrous backpack that held his tent, a sleeping bag, clothing and toiletries, plus camera equipment and 160 rolls of film.

Over the next three years, Harris trekked 1,600 miles through 80 of North Carolina's 100 counties snapping pictures. His shutter became like the brush of Norman Rockwell, capturing delicious slices of Americana - particularly rural Americana.

"I tried to take back roads as much as I could," he says. "I felt like more of what I was looking for was gonna be on those roads - the rural scenes, the common, everyday people that I wanted to see."

continued on page 17

1

2

1 Tommy Spivey of the Crusoe Island community, located in Columbus County's Green Swamp, shows off a corn snake he caught in the swamp. Most of his income comes from catching and selling snakes, and he says it's a good day if he catches 500 pounds of snakes. And he catches 'em by hand. He's braver than I am.

2 Late autumn in Wilkes County. This is one of the first pictures I made, and it's a favorite of mine. It's just a nice autumn shot.

3 The late Rufus Hussey of Seagrove, known as the legendary "bean-shooter man." When Rufus was growing up, his family had a gun but couldn't afford shells for it, so in order to put food on the table, he and his brothers learned how to hunt using bean-shooters like this one, which he made himself. I saw him shoot these little white pebbles, and he was deadly accurate. He would toss a coin up in the air and shoot at it and knock it out of the air. Then he had me hold corncobs and drink cans, and he'd stand about 15 or 20 feet away with his bean-shooter and knock them out of my hand every time. When I asked him how he became so accurate, he said, "Well, I've had 66 years to practice."

4 An old barn near Greenville, around mid-January. This was just a shot that caught my eye - which was the whole point of walking, so things like this would catch my eye.

5 I spotted this Nantahala woman working in her garden on one of the hottest days of the year. I asked her if it wasn't too hot for that kind of work, and she said, "I'd rather be hoeing taters than doing anything else."

6 Surf's up for the Class of '90 at Ocracoke School, in Hyde County - all eight of them. The graduating seniors usually have their class picture made at the Coast Guard station. Taking them to the beach was my idea.

Each night, Harris camped out wherever he could find a safe-looking spot, often calling upon an area church to let him pitch his tent in the churchyard or on the property of an obliging parishioner.

"I slept with a lot of lawn mowers," he says, explaining that homeowners often allowed him to sleep in their utility sheds or barns. He even spent a night on a hog farm, "upwind."

But his experiences — the sights he saw, the people he met — made any uncomfortable sleeping quarters seem insignificant, he says.

What did Marty Harris find in North Carolina during those walks?

"First," he says, "there are still plenty of good people in the state, people who are willing to help out in whatever way they can."

The walk also confirmed for Harris that North Carolina is the most beautiful state in the country. "Especially with walking, you just see so much," he said. "You see a lot of things that you miss by traveling in a car. Even in places that you wouldn't consider a tourist attraction or places you wouldn't really consider to be beautiful, as long as you're walking and taking your time, you can see little things that appear beautiful."

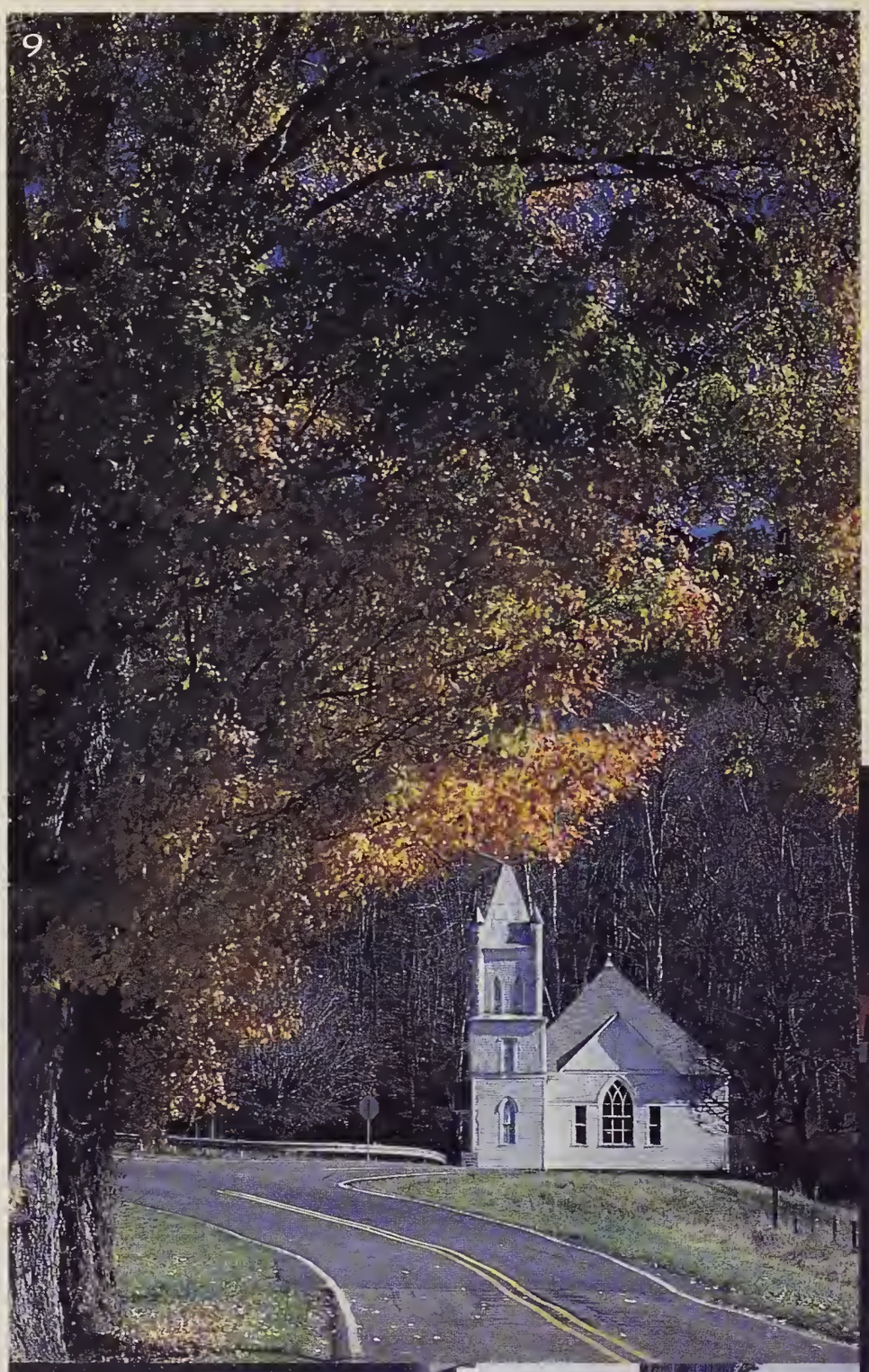
Marty Harris lives in Statesville, but he's currently taking a course in digital imaging at the New England School of Photography in Boston, Mass., after which he'll resume trying to get his photo book published.

You can reach Marty Harris at 619 Holland Dr., Statesville, NC 28677.

Jimmy Tomlin is a feature writer and columnist with the High Point Enterprise. He lives in Greensboro.

7 Don Witherspoon, of Ashe County, uses a piece of peach wood to look for water. He prefers to be called a dowser rather than a water witch, the term a lot of folks in the Appalachians give to dowsers because they think there's some kind of black magic involved. Don said there's nothing spooky about it. He considers dowsing a gift from God.

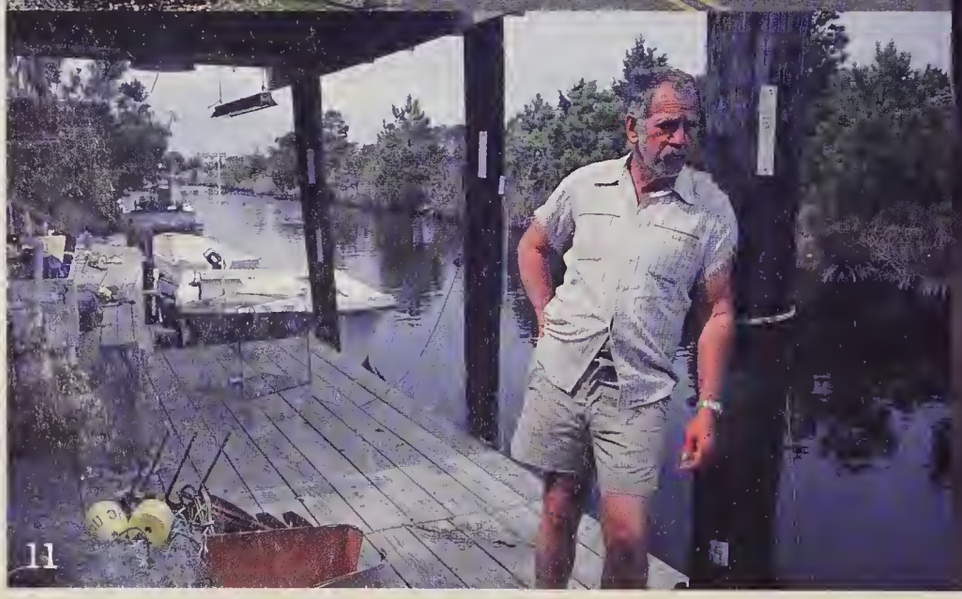
8 This is Dina Welch, a Cherokee medicine woman in Swain County. She told me about all kinds of medicines she makes from plants and roots. For example, she said Jerusalem oak's good for bringing down a fever, and so is catnip tea. She learned from her father, whom she called "a good doctor."



9 The mountains of western North Carolina are dotted with little white churches, such as this picturesque church in Creston, Ashe County.

10 This is the "authentic Kennedy rocker," built by P&P Chair Co. of Asheboro. Bill Page, whose father helped start the company, said John Kennedy bought one of the rockers when he was a U.S. senator and then took it with him to the White House.

11 Jack Tillett of Wanchese makes his living as a commercial fisherman. When I met him, blue crabs were in season. His can be a risky profession, he said, but he loves being his own boss.



12 Burlon Craig's specialty is making these clay jugs with faces on them. The Lincolnton potter told me the African people used such jugs to keep evil spirits away from people's graves.

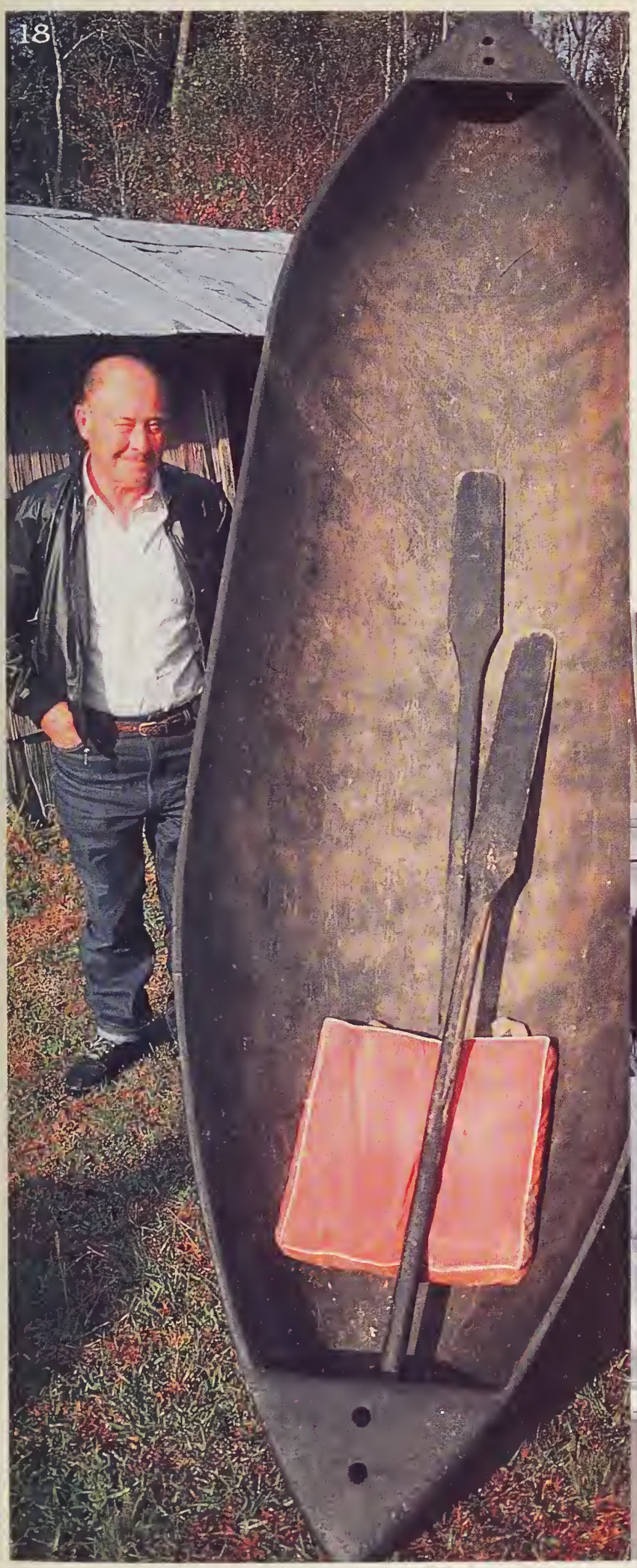
13 Rural North Carolina doesn't get much more picturesque than this old foot bridge I came across in Alleghany County, during the fall. This was one of the first shots I made on my journey.

14 Obviously, this is the lighthouse at Cape Hatteras, and I consider this the best shot out of the whole trip because it's such a one-in-a-million shot. Someone was on the beach flying a two-string stunt kite, and the kite just flew into the frame with the lighthouse.

15 Sunrise at Ocracoke Island. This gorgeous sky made me think of the old saying, "Red sky at morning, sailor take warning; red sky at night, sailor's delight."

16 Barry and Stuart Collari don't care that their house in Southport is haunted. The couple bought the house - which used to be the old Brunswick Inn - knowing that a ghost named Tony supposedly roams the halls there. According to the legend, Tony was a harpist with a band that played at dances at the inn during the early 1800s. One afternoon, when he and some band members had gone out fishing, a squall came up and capsized the boat; Tony drowned. The band's performance that night was canceled, but as guests were turning in for the evening, they heard harp music coming from downstairs. They went to investigate and found Tony's harp - with broken strings. "We still hear music now and then," the Collaris say, "and we hear (Tony) walk around, but we never see him."

17 Part of my stay in Kinston was with these Civil War soldiers during a weekend re-enactment on the banks of the Neuse River. It was fun because they all referred to one another as Captain So-and-So or Corporal So-and-So. They stayed in character the whole time.



18 John Clewis of the Crusoe Island community, in Columbus County's Green Swamp, fashioned this dugout canoe from a cypress log. John boasted that his canoe is so perfectly balanced that he could take it out in the swamp and paddle it standing on one leg.

19 Meet Myrtle Ellis of Bandana, in Mitchell County. She was a hundred years old when I met her, and she said that when she was a girl, she and her mother would walk down to the railroad track and flag down a passing train to catch a ride into Spruce Pine or Burnsville to do some shopping.

20 A lone beachcomber strolls along the shore at Nags Head on the Outer Banks. Believe it or not, this was shot in midsummer. ●

Carolina close-up

"Pamlico Pride" by Doug Alvord

"Pamlico Pride" is a new release by artist and Pamlico County resident Doug Alvord. It features the Pamlico Packing Company's trawler fleet docked on the Bay River in Pamlico County. The image is available as a print measuring 25 by 15 inches. Prices are $49.25 for unsigned reproductions and $59.25 for signed reproductions.

Alvord's most recent work includes a portrait sculpture of Caleb Bradham, the originator of Pepsi Cola, for the centennial celebration this year. He also produced the sculpture, "The Carolina Sounder," a tribute to the North Carolina fisherman, to be placed on the Morehead City waterfront this summer.

For more information, contact Pamlico Packing Company, P.O. Box 308, Vandemere, NC 28587. (252) 745-3688. Or visit their Web site at www.best-seafood.com

1,000 recipes

The Women on Mission of Sandy Ridge Baptist Church in Hickory have published a cookbook containing 1,000 recipes.

The cookbook costs $12 plus $3 for postage and handling. Proceeds from the sale of these books goes to fund community mission projects.

Send your check or money order to Ella Mae Nichols, 131 Dove Dr., Taylorsville, NC 28681.

New, traveling exhibit chronicles North Carolina newspapering

A new exhibit chronicling the growth and development of newspapers in North Carolina opens this month at the North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh. The exhibit honors the 125th anniversary of the North Carolina Press Association, which helped design it.

Arranged as a series of panels that can be folded and shipped, the exhibit will remain at the state history museum through summer and then will be available to communities. It will also appear the at the press association's 125th anniversary convention in Pinehurst in July.

North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation, on behalf of the state's electric cooperatives, donated to the development of the exhibit.

For more information, contact the NCPA at (919) 787-7443.

Zoom Zone takes off at Carowinds

A new 3.5-acre Zoom Zone™ area for children and parents opened this spring at Paramount's Carowinds in Charlotte.

Located in Animation Station, the playground features a mini-rollercoaster with 15-foot peak, elevated helicopters that provide a high-flying tour of Animation Station, and 1950s-style electric cars that let kids drive around a 1,200-foot track.

The popular, year-old WaterWorks area also opened in late April at Carowinds. It's a 12-acre area with tube slides, a wave pool, water jungle gym and 1,000-foot Carolinas' Ramblin' River waterway.

For more information, contact Carowinds at (800) 888-4386.

Wildflowers for sale to benefit environmental work

The Wake Soil and Water Conservation District is selling four mixtures of wildflower seeds: southeastern, shade, low growing, and bird and butterfly. A single packet covers a 400-square-foot area. Packets cost $5.75 each (includes shipping). Proceeds benefit the district's environmental education and information programs. Contact Wake SWCD at (919) 250-1054, or by mail at 4001-D Carya Dr., Raleigh, NC 27610.

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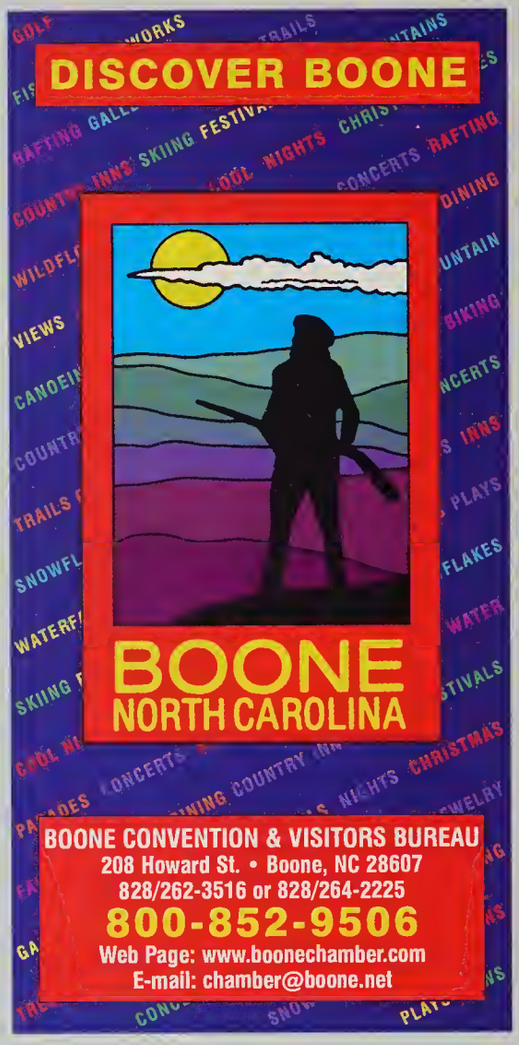

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252-726-4111

Advertiser 10

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If you pay taxes every year, chances are, there's little the State of North Carolina doesn't know about you. But that works both ways. Especially if you and your family spend a few days nosing around the Capital City area.

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Greater Raleigh Convention & Visitors Bureau www.raleighcvb.org

You can see the whole state from here.

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North Carolina

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- *ECSU Planetarium*

Elizabeth City Area Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 426, Elizabeth City, NC 27907-0426
ecacc@interpath.com www.elizcity.com

1.252.335.4365

Advertiser 12

Mainland Hyde County & Ocracoke Island

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For more information, contact:
Greater Hyde County
Chamber of Commerce
1-888-HYDE-VAN
www.albemarle-nc.com/hyde
email: Hyde@albemarle-nc.com

Mainland Hyde County Events for 1998

May 2, 1998
Mattamuskeet Art Show. Theme: "Wild Wings - Native Scenes-Artistic Things." Artists from throughout 16-county northeastern North Carolina will depict the rich heritage of the region. 12:00 – 5:00 pm. The Lodge at Lake Mattamuskeet.

May 17,1998
Engelhard Seafood Festival. Enjoy NC seafood at its best. Stroll through a quaint fishing village and visit various craft vendors. Live music and entertainment provided. Little Miss & Mr. Seafood and Miss Seafood Pageant. A day of good family fun.

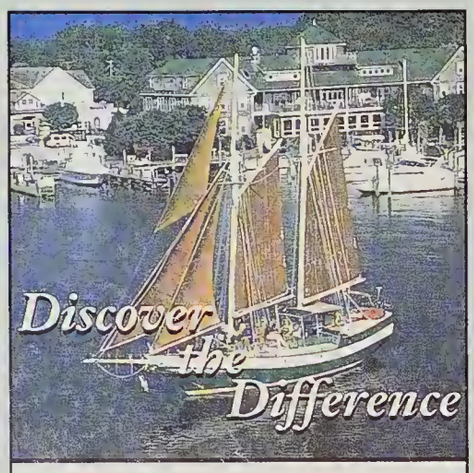
May 23-25, 1998
Fairfield Heritage Bass Tournament. Fish Lake Mattamuskeet, NC's largest natural lake. Enjoy local cuisine and visit the community yard sale.

October 3, 1998
Hyde County Farm Day. Celebrate the county's rich agricultural heritage with a day of family fun.

November 7, 1998
Mattamuskeet Fun Ride. Bicycle around/across Lake Mattamuskeet and enjoy natural beauty and wildlife of the area. Lunch and T-shirts provided with advance registration.

December 5-6, 1998
Swan Days Festival. Celebrate the annual return of over 40,000 tundra swan and other waterfowl. Guided wildlife tours, historical presentations, workshops, seminars, food, arts & crafts.

Advertiser 13



Many of our earliest towns were born from rivers, our earliest transportation routes.

The river names - Chowan, Roanoke, Meherrin - honor the Native Americans who lived here before the Europeans came.

Once settled, the colonists built their homes and businesses in these port towns.

Much of that same architectural and cultural heritage survives today.

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http://www.icw-net.com/DSCwelcome

Advertiser 14

Some of our visitors have been coming here for thousands of years.

Our wide, pristine beaches have been enjoyed for a long time by those fortunate enough to have discovered them. But many visitors come here for the quaint maritime and country villages with their creative festivals, unique shopping and captivating histories, too. Call us for a naturally inspiring vacation any time of the year.

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North Topsail Beach • Holly Ridge
Richlands • Camp Lejeune
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Advertiser 15

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Tour the Turtle Rehabilitation Hospital

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Greater Topsail Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism
1-800-626-2780

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Advertiser 16

You can afford your own pool!

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So, call today for a free yard survey and information on all our pools and decks. And take a vacation this summer without leaving your own backyard!

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(good on any aluminum pool purchased in May)

Financing available
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Standard and custom decks

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** 12'x 24' oval (not pictured) ** Prior sales excluded - not valid with any other offer. Ad must be presented at time of sale.*

Installation and yard survey available in most areas - call to see if your homesite qualifies!

The great NC counties scramble

By Cleve Cox

North Carolina has 100 counties. Can you find them all in this scramble?

You can read up, down, right, left and diagonally. The solution is on page 57.

Cleve Cox, who devised this puzzle for his students, is vice president for instruction and student services at Wilson Technical Community College. He spends weekends at his place on the Pamlico River in Beaufort County, where he is a member of Tideland EMC.

CHOWASHINCTONORCTHXAFILAHMOILPMAPBA
ARYANKEDAORNASHHYOENOSHAEAXEIRIABUL
PITTEPAASQUSSBOOEHSURRYVNHDCCAMDENL
AOYALAMANCELLLEWSACOSWDEDGOMOLTTRCE
SNRUQNOSNAXOKATASTYROUERENVCINARTOG
QERGUTONELEWODENOSKCAJUIRISCANCYEMH
ULEALLRREDNEPERSONEEEBQESKOHRFHAEBO
OHLEIOEPNWMSANWARENKCAEUOCCENEERGEN
TILNGATESELIWARRENROLEENNOIRYKVAMCY
ANCTONORCLWASKEOOUQHWINATRLORANAANR
NONUPOLKULUHREMBBYENYAWSLLMKRWDORIE
KOLFACLRMIISAXCREGNAROOWYEVEIISKTLM
MITCHELLBNIWQNDOMHCIRIKANAXESNURIKO
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Answer on page 57

RESTORE A FADING MEMORY

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History and *passion* on the outdoor stage

North Carolina is the birthplace of outdoor historical drama

"The Lost Colony"

On a summer evening in North Carolina, if you listen carefully in the warm, evening breeze that carries the perfume of magnolia and jasmine, you might hear faint ceremonial singing, shouts of battle, or cries of victory and defeat. They are the sounds of history and passion staged as "outdoor drama" all across our state.

Performed in expansive amphitheaters against the natural backdrops of bays or mountains or Piedmont pine forests, North Carolina's outdoor historical dramas are some of the largest family attractions in the state. And these original plays have been performed here for over 60 years.

Indeed, North Carolina is the birthplace of outdoor historical drama. In 1937, the residents of Roanoke Island wanted to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the birth of Virginia Dare, the first child born of English parentage on American soil. They commissioned the Pulitzer-prize winn ing playwright Paul Green, a North Carolina native, to write "The Lost Colony" based on the events and mysterious disappearance of the first pioneers to settle America in 1587. Originally scheduled to run that summer only, the drama proved so successful that with exception of the black-out period of World War II, "The Lost Colony" has played 60 seasons to over 3 million visitors.

"Unto These Hills" has played in the 2,800-seat Mountainside Amphitheatre in Cherokee since 1948. Across the mountains from Cherokee in Boone, "Horn in the West" will celebrate its 47th season this summer. Other notable runs this year include the 34th season of the Andrew Jackson drama "Listen and Remember" in Waxhaw; the 31st season of "From This Day Forward" in Valdese, and the 25th anniversary of the "The Sword of Peace" in Snow Camp.

The popularity of outdoor dramas is based not only on the spectacle of the productions - the music, firedancing and battle re-enactments — but also because an audience can learn and experience the significance of the history involved.

"Ours is not a pretty story," says David Henson, chairman of the Cherokee Historical Association that produces "Unto These Hills." It is harsh and cruel. But then, no story of empire building is pretty, except for the heroism it burnishes in men."

Even when the history isn't pretty, over 5 million people attend. Children return a generation later to bring their children.

To bring audiences closer to the 'living history' of "Unto These Hills" and the Cherokee as a people, pre-show activities adjacent to the amphitheater are encouraged. Visitors can tour the Museum of the Cherokee or the Oconaluftee Village, an authentic recreation of an 18th century Cherokee community, and observe such ancient arts as basket making, finger weaving and pottery.

Similar in venue is the Hickory Ridge Homestead on the grounds of "Horn in the West." The 18th-century living museum highlights the daily lives of the mountain forefathers through costumed interpreters who explain pioneer life and culture. "The Lost Colony" is located at Fort Raleigh National Historic Site where daily ranger-guided tours and historic exhibits await. The Snow Camp Amphitheatre site, located in the central Piedmont of the state and home of "The Sword of Peace" and "Pathway to Freedom," maintains many original buildings from centuries past, including a Quaker meeting-house and a museum dedicated to the Quaker families who settled Alamance county in the 1750s.

Not all of the outdoor dramas are American history. Located in Swansboro, along the Crystal Coast of North Carolina, is the religious drama "Worthy is the Lamb." Passion plays, as they are sometimes called, dramatize significant events in the life of Christ and are based on the text of the Bible. With a tremendous cast, horse-drawn chariots and an extensive sound and light show, "Worthy" has built a national reputation in just a decade.

An hour's drive south from Swansboro along the coast to the city of Wilmington, the Cape Fear Shakespeare company performs works of the bard free to the public during the month of June. This season, the company will perform the traditional versions of "Othello" and "The Comedy of Errors" at the Greenfield Lake Amphitheatre.

There are 12 outdoor dramas to choose from in North Carolina. Yes, insect repellent is recommended and you might want to call ahead if the weather is questionable. Whatever your interests, you can't lose by learning. Make reservations now - your summer could be history.

– Audrey Tola

1998 Outdoor Drama Schedule

Cape Fear Shakespeare
June 4 - 28 (Thursday - Sunday)
Presenting "Othello" and "The Comedy of Errors" in the Greenfield Lake Amphitheatre. Free.

Cape Fear Shakespeare
P.O.Box 908
Wilmington, NC 28401
910-251-9457

"First for Freedom"
June 25 - July 11 (Thursday - Saturday)
This drama celebrates events leading to the signing of the Halifax Resolves on April 12, 1776, the first formal declaration of independence from Great Britain from an American colony.

Eastern Stage, Inc.
P.O.Box 21
Halifax, NC 27839
252-583-3011

"From This Day Forward"
July 17 - August 8 (Friday - Sunday)
The story of the Waldenses, a religious sect which arose in medieval France in the late 1100s, and their struggle to survive persecution, which led to their arrival in western North Carolina in 1893.

Old Colony Players
P.O. Box 112
Valdese, NC 28690
800-743-8398

"Horn in the West"
June 19 - August 15 (Tuesday - Sunday)
Set in the southern Appalachian mountains of N.C. during the Revolutionary War, this drama follows Daniel Boone and his band of mountain pioneers as they struggle against the British militia.

Horn in the West
P.O. Box 295,
Boone, NC 28607
828-264-2120

"Listen and Remember"
June 5 - 27
This drama celebrates the lives of the early pioneers of Waxhaw, including Andrew Jackson, Waxhaw's native son.

Waxhaw Historical Association
P.O. Box 1776
Waxhaw, NC 28173
704-843-2300

"The Lost Colony"
June 4 - August 28 (Sunday - Friday)
The original symphonic drama by Paul Green, now in its 61st year, considers the mysterious disappearance of the first English colony to settle in America soon after its arrival on Roanoke Island.

Roanoke Island Historical Association, Inc.
1409 Hwy 64/264
Manteo, NC 27594
252-473-3414

"Michjah!"
July 16 - August 1 (Thursday - Saturday)
This drama celebrates the bravery of the town's founding father, Micajah Autry. Born in 1793, he later traveled to Tennessee and then to Texas, where he died defending the Alamo.

Micajah Autry Society
P.O. Box 146
Autryville, NC 28318
910-525-5305

"Ripple in the River"
June 4 - 13 (Thursday - Saturday)
The life and death of the people and town of Snedysborough, a bustling port at the headwaters of the Pee Dee River, which thrived from the late 1700s until its dismantling just prior to the Civil War.

Anson County Writer's Club
P.O. Box 126
Polkton, NC 28135
800-766-0319

"Unto These Hills"
June 12 - August 22 (Monday - Saturday)
This renowned outdoor historical drama paints a vivid portrait of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and their brave leaders as they faced the arrival of Hernando de Soto and their eventual removal to Oklahoma.

Cherokee Historical Association
P.O. Box 398
Cherokee, NC 28719
828-497-2111

"The Sword of Peace"
"Pathway to Freedom"
June 17 - August 22 (Wednesday - Sunday)
25th anniversary of "Sword," the drama re-enacting the conflict faced by the Cane Creek Society of Friends during the Revolutionary War when, as peaceful Quakers, they are forced to defend their basic tenant of non-violence. "Pathway" is the story of the antislavery movement in North Carolina and how proponents of the movement helped hundreds of escaped slaves flee to the North prior to the Civil War.

Snow Camp Historical Drama Association
P.O. Box 535
Snow Camp, NC 27349
800-726-5115

"Worthy is the Lamb"
June 19 - August 29 (Thursday - Saturday)
August 30 - September 12 (Friday - Saturday)
The White Oak River is the backdrop for this passion play which begins with the arrival in Jerusalem of John the Baptist. The production's elaborate soundtrack, recorded in London, features over 150 Shakespearean actors in the speaking roles and a full symphony orchestra.

Crystal Coast Amphitheatre
P.O. Box 1004
Swansboro, NC 28584
800-662-5960

Electricity is your friend.

Don't take it for granted.
Treat it with care and respect.

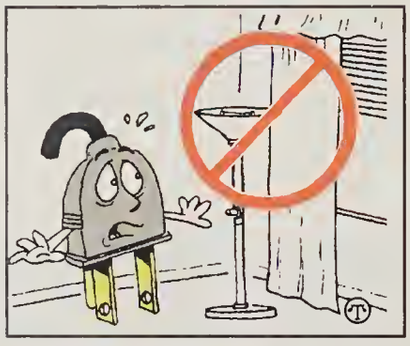
Just because you can't see electricity doesn't mean that it isn't there. It is there, and it's powerful. Don't take electrical safety for granted. Did you know that statistics show:

One person is electrocuted in a U.S. home every 36 hours.

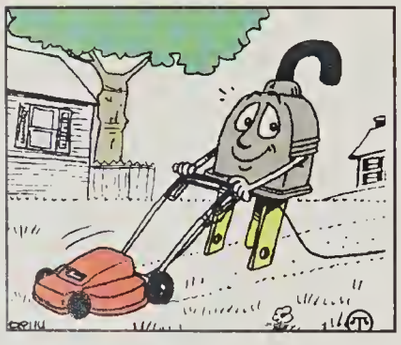
One person is electrocuted in a U.S. workplace every day.

Each year, electrical fires in the U.S. claim 700 lives, 6,800 injuries and $1.4 billion in personal property damages.

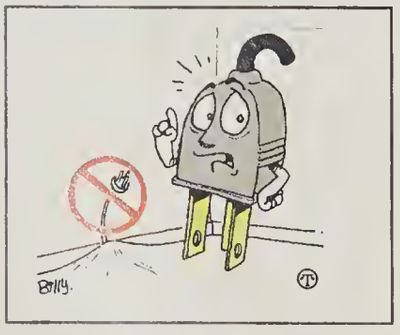
Here is some advice from the National Electrical Safety Foundation. For a brochure on Home Electrical Safety, send a 55-cent stamp on a self-addressed business-size envelope to National Electrical Safety Foundation, 1300 N. 17th St., #1847, Rosslyn, VA 22209. Or call (703) 841-3229.



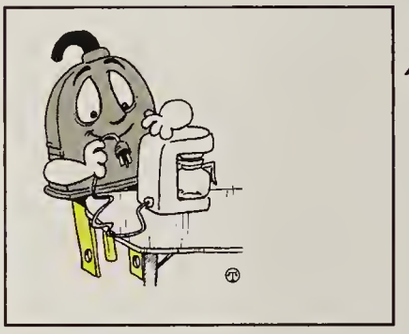
1 Never place a halogen floor lamp where it could come in contact with draperies, clothing or other combustible materials.



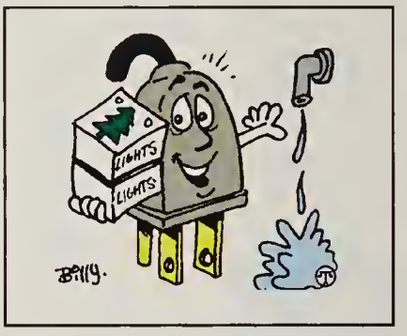
2 Electric-powered mowers should not be used on wet grass.



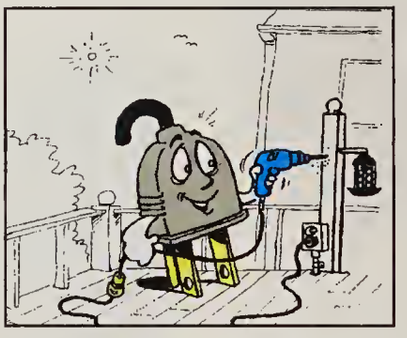
3 Never run any electrical cord under a carpet. If the cord is covered, heat cannot escape, which may result in a fire hazard.



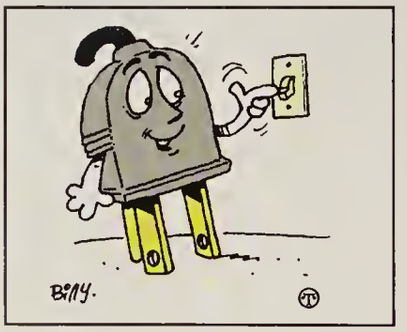
4 Make sure your electrical appliances are in good condition. Look for breaks in power cords, plugs or connectors. An appliance that repeatedly blows a fuse or trips a circuit may be defective.



5 Never store electrical decorations near water.



6 When working outdoors, use only weather-resistant, heavy-gauge extension cords marked "for outdoor use only." Keep outdoor outlets and electrical products covered and dry between uses.



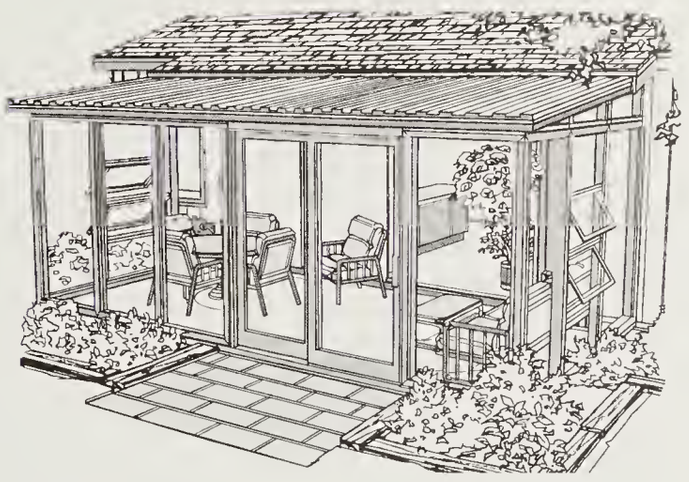
7 Hot switch plates and loose wall outlets should be examined by a qualified electrician.

May is National Electrical Safety Month.

Making cents of your electric bill

by James Dulley

Screened-in patios provide comfort year-round



To increase your living space and reduce your air-conditioning costs this summer, consider adding a do-it-yourself screened patio. A screened patio can also provide an effective windbreak to reduce heating costs in the winter. Several of the simple, lightweight kits can be built directly over an existing patio or a deck.

Building a patio room will reduce your need to air-condition in the evening and in the peak afternoon heat. Most of these patio room kits have a light-colored insulated aluminum roof. This blocks the sun's rays from directly baking your house walls and a concrete or brick patio. Without this protection, once the house and patio are hot, they hold the heat well into the evening.

The spring is a good time to start building your patio room. For the easiest assembly, select one of the new do-it-yourself, easy-to-assemble screened patio room kits. Many are delivered with over 90% of the assembly work already completed. You just need a few simple tools to finish assembling it over a weekend.

You have two basic design options — all-season and three-season. All-season screened kits include thermal pane windows and thermally broken aluminum frames. This feature will extend your seasonal use of the patio and reduce condensation in cold climates. Three-season screened patio room kits usually include just single pane glass. In hot climates, select heavy fiberglass solar screening to block 70% of the sun's heat.

Most patio room kits now use insulated aluminum laminated roof panels. These panels are typically made of three inches of expanded polystyrene foam insulation that is laminated between two embossed aluminum skins. This produces a very strong, quiet and maintenance-free roof. Many have factory-installed skylights, or you can install your own.

For a true screened-porch atmosphere without sacrificing efficiency in the winter, select a kit, like Spectrum from Texas Aluminum, with lift-out glass panels. Other kit designs have sliding glass wall panels so the center half of the wall can be opened. These "quasi-sunroom" models often include hidden ceiling fan supports and built-in wiring channels.

If you enjoy doing some designing yourself, Skyquest has basic patio enclosures and screen porch conversion kit plans. These blueprints will allow you to design a basic structure. They provide all the special components, windows and framing materials that you need for your design. You can purchase the other building materials locally.

Skytech makes unique folding glass and screen walls that are ideal for a do-it-yourself patio room. Each glass wall section is about 30-inches wide and four to seven feet high. These folding walls are also an excellent replacement for a large sliding glass door to a patio where you want a large open area.

Each wall section glides on sealed ball bearings in tracks and opens accordion-style. When you have the folding wall fully opened, 92% of the wall is unobstructed. When they are closed, tight weather-stripping and locks make the wall energy efficient and secure. Many clear and tinted glass options are available, including efficient low-e glass.

For those on a limited budget, Kay Home Products makes square and round (actually 10-sided) freestanding screened rooms. These have lightweight triple-layer vinyl roofs and can be located on a patio or in your yard. All you need to assemble these kits is a screwdriver. The kits include aluminum framing, a door, a roof and the necessary hardware.

When using a professional-looking screening system like the one from Screen Tight, it is easy to build your own patio room from scratch. Once you have the lumber framing complete, nail the base strip to the lumber. Lay the screening over the base and snap in the spine to secure it. This hides all the fasteners.

Write for Update No. 440 – a buyer's guide of 16 patio room/screen porch kits, roof/wall systems, window/door options and features. Please include $2 and a business-size self-addressed stamped envelope and mail to James Dulley, Carolina Country, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45244.

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The Albemarle

Surrounding the sound, this area is the cradle of North Carolina's civilization. Our gracious and faithful soul was born here.

The stately towns of Windsor, Hamilton, Murfreesboro, Edenton, Hertford and Elizabeth City rose during the heady days when trade flourished between Virginia and the waterways to the ocean, and plantations spread over the lyrically named river plains: Pasquotank, Perquimans, Chowan, Roanoke.

Respect for their heritage led Albemarle communities to maintain some of the finest examples of 18th and 19th century civilization in the state. A tour of the region is rewarded with an abundance of preserved and pretty places. In each you can learn about inspired politics: the Halifax Resolves, the Edenton Tea Party, John Harvey's vision, David Stone's leadership, the magnificence of Somerset Plantation, and the steadfast honor portrayed at Plymouth and Fort Branch.

From the north, the dominant Great Dismal Swamp is the wellspring of the region's culture and enterprise. Today its Intracoastal Waterway brings boaters to the Albemarle.

And in between is a countryside of enduring peacefulness planted by Quakers who blessed its early years and nurtured now by communities who tend carefully their churches, yards and fields. Beauty, peace and quiet rise virtually everywhere, as though they define real civilization after all.

Travel Information

Ahoskie. (252) 332-2042.
Camden County Manager. (252) 338-1919.
Dismal Swamp Canal Welcome Center. (252) 771-8333.
Edenton-Chowan. (252) 482-3400.
Elizabeth City. (252) 335-4365.
Gates County Manager. (252) 357-1240.
Greater Tyrrell County. (252) 796-1996.
Hertford County Economic Development. (252) 358-7805.
Historic Albemarle Tour. (252) 974-2950 / (800) 734-1117.
Martin County Chamber of Commerce. (252) 792-4131.
Martin County Travel & Tourism. (800) 776-8566.
Murfreesboro. (252) 398-4886.
Perquimans County. (252) 426-5657.
Tyrrell County Visitors Center. (252) 796-0723.
Washington County. (252) 793-4804.
Windsor Area. (252) 794-4277.

Recreation and Culture

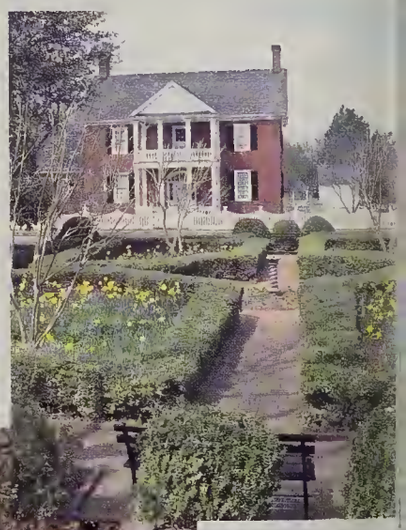
Chowan Arts Council. (252) 482-8005.
Columbia Cultural Arts Resource Center. (252) 796-1000.
Historic Edenton Visitor Center. (252) 482-2637.
Historic Murfreesboro. 45 miles west of Elizabeth City. Early river port. (252) 398-5922.
Hope Plantation, Windsor. Restored, early 1800s home of N.C. Governor and U.S. Senator David Stone. (252) 794-3140.
Museum of Albemarle, U.S. 17, Elizabeth City. Exhibits of life in northeastern North Carolina. (252) 335-1453.
Newbold-White House. S.R. 1336, Hertford. State's oldest house. (252) 426-7567.
Partnership for the Sounds. Columbia. (252) 796-1000.
Pocosin Arts. (252) 796-2787.
Port O' Plymouth Museum. (252) 793-1377.
Roanoke River Partners. Windsor. (252) 794-2793.
S-Shaped Bridge. Hertford.
Scuppernong River Interpretive Boardwalk, Wetlands Walk. (252) 796-1000.
Sen. Bob Martin Eastern Agricultural Center. Williamston. (252) 792-5802.

Parks, Monuments, Historic Sites

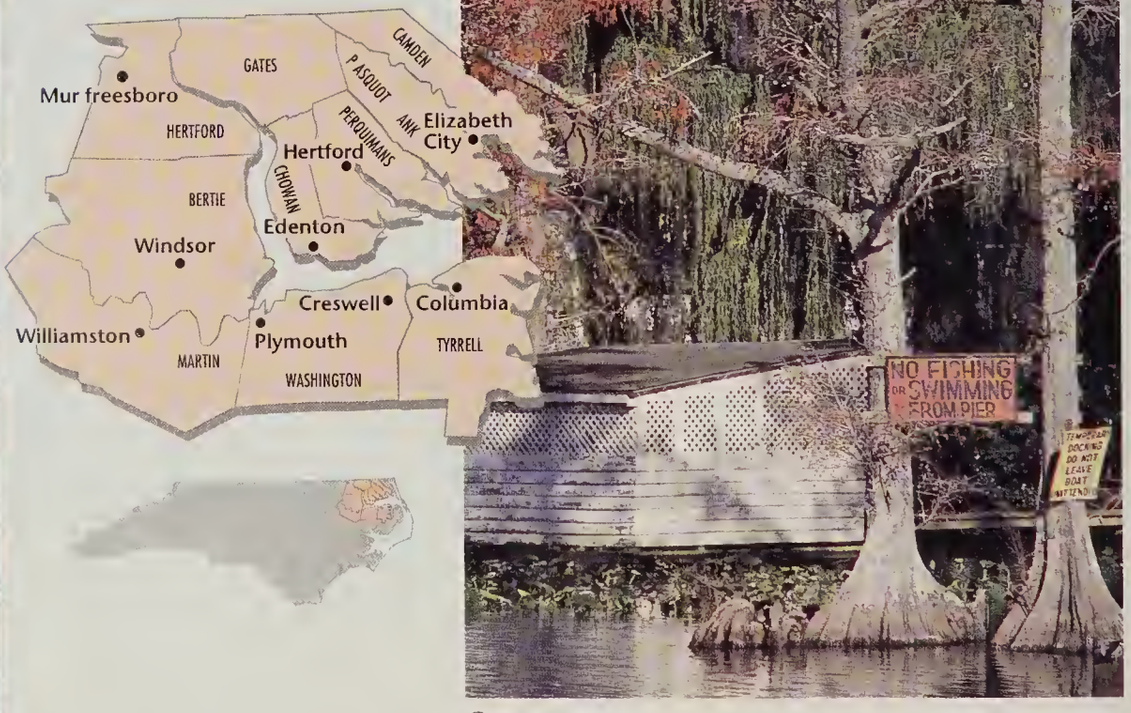
Confederate Monument. Dedicated to Gen. James Johnston Pettigrew and his command for their charge at Gettysburg.
Fort Branch Historic Site. Confederate earthworks. East of Hamilton. (252) 792-3001.
Great Dismal Swamp. Only live peat bog on the continent. (804) 986-3705.
Historic Columbia Walking Tour. (252) 796-2781.
Mackay's Island National Wildlife Refuge. Knotts Island. (252) 429-3100.
Merchants Millpond State Park. U.S. 158. (252) 357-1191.
Pettigrew State Park. Creswell. (252) 797-4475.
Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge. Creswell. (252) 797-4431.
Roanoke River National Wildlife Refuge. 10,000 acres. (252) 794-5326.
Somerset Place Historic Site. Near Creswell. Best example of slave-supported plantation life. (252) 797-4560.
Veteran's Park on the Scuppernong. (252) 796-1371.

Electric Cooperatives

Albemarle EMC (Hertford). (252) 426-5735.
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC (Tarboro). (252) 823-2171.
Roanoke Electric Cooperative (Rich Square). (252) 539-2236.
Tideland EMC (Pantego, Grantsboro, Ocracoke, Engelhard). (252) 943-3046.



Historic Murfreesboro.



Cypress swamp.

Outer Banks & Pamlico

Travel Information

Aycock Brown Welcome Center, Kitty Hawk. (252) 261-4644.
Belhaven. (252) 943-3770.
Carteret County. (252) 726-6350.
Carteret County Tourism Bureau. (800) 786-6962 / (252) 726-8148.
Craven County Convention and Visitors Bureau. (800) 437-5767.
Greater Hyde County. (252) 925-5201, (888) HYDE-VAN. www.albemarle-nc.com/hyde
Havelock. (252) 447-1101.
Historic Bath Visitor Center. (252) 923-3971.
New Bern Area. (252) 637-3111.
Ocracoke Visitor Center. (252) 928-4531.
Outer Banks Chamber. (252) 441-8144.
Outer Banks Visitors Bureau. (800) 446-6262 / (252) 473-2138.
N.C. Ferries. (800) BY-FERRY.
Pamlico County. (252) 745-4171.
Washington-Beaufort County. (252) 946-9168.
Washington County. (252) 793-4804.

Culture and Recreation

Attmore-Oliver House, New Bern. Built in 1790. (252) 638-8558.
Aurora Fossil Museum, Aurora. Geology of the coastal plain. (252) 322-4238.
Bank of Arts, New Bern. Home of the Craven Arts Council and Gallery. (252) 638-2577.
Belhaven Memorial Museum. Unusual collection. (252) 943-3055.
Bogue Inlet Pier. (252) 726-7021.
Carteret County Museum of History, Morehead City. (252) 247-7533.
Civil War Museum, New Bern. (252) 633-2818.
Coastal Engineering Research Center, Duck. 800-ft. research pier.
Colington Island. Site of the first permanent settlement on the Outer Banks.
Core Sound Waterfowl Museum, Harkers Island. (252) 728-1500.
Elizabethan Gardens, Roanoke Island. A memorial to English colonists. (252) 473-3234.
The Fireman's Museum, New Bern. (252) 636-4087.
Frisco Native American Museum and Natural History Center. (252) 995-4440.
Gull Rock Game Land. (919) 733-7291.
Hatteras Fishing Center. The island's largest marina. (252) 986-2365.
Historic Bath Tour. (252) 923-3971.
"The Lost Colony." Outdoor symphonic drama, in summer, Roanoke Island. (800) 488-5012/ (252) 473-3414.
Beaufort Historic Site. Historic houses. (252) 728-5225, (800) 575-SITE.
Oregon Inlet Campground. Run by the National Park Service. (252) 473-2111.
Oregon Inlet Fishing Center. Center of sportfishing on the Outer Banks. (800) 272-5199 / (252) 441-6301.
The New Bern Civic Theatre. (252) 633-0567.
New Bern Historic Trolley Car Tour. (800) 849-7316.
North Carolina Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores. (252) 247-4003.
North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island. (252) 473-3494.
North Carolina Maritime Museum, Beaufort. (252) 728-7317.
Ocracoke Campground. Run by the National Park Service. (800) 365-CAMP.
Ocracoke Pony Pens. About six miles from Hatteras ferry landing.
Tryon Palace and Gardens, New Bern. Home of William Tryon, governor of the colony. (800) 767-1560 / (252) 638-5109.
"Worthy Is the Lamb." Musical drama at Crystal Coast Amphitheatre, Swansboro, during summer. (252) 393-8373.

Although towns formed here before they did anywhere else in the state, governments rise and fall like sand castles on the beach. Water, wind, and maybe whimsy as well, are the prime movers of the Outer Banks and Pamlico.

The Lost Colony didn't last on Roanoke Island. The Wright Brothers came and went. The great city of Portsmouth is a ghost town now. Settlers tried to live on Core Banks, but they moved on. Men tried to drain Mattamuskeet and gave up. Shad once ran abundantly up the sound, but now they're gone.

But while they were here, they loved it. They loved it as those here today love it. You can't help it. The light is lovelier here than anywhere, reflecting the sea and sounds, penetrating the soul of anyone who stays. The surf and breeze can carry away your cares and bring you something fresh and new.

Reverence and renewal guide this region. People revere the forces of nature, for the bounty it brings, for the culture it creates and leaves behind. And they set about renewing it all from time to time: the waterfronts at Columbia, Washington, New Bern and Beaufort; the museums of Currituck, Hatteras and Harkers Island.

They learn, it seems, from the amazing renewal of nature itself in the 130 miles of protected seashore and the eight national wildlife refuges. Thanks to the water and wind, this area will never be the same.

N. C. Travel & Tourism

Soundside sailing.

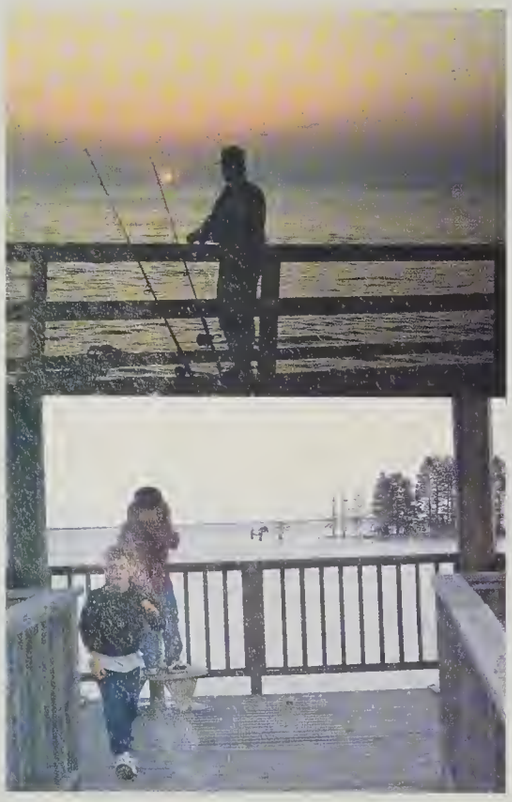
Outer Banks & Pamlico

Parks, Monuments, Historic Sites

Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge. (252) 473-1131.
Bodie Island Lighthouse, south of Nags Head. (252) 441-5711.
British Cemetery, Ocracoke. Memorial to four British sailors.
Cape Hatteras Lighthouse and Hatteras Island Visitor Center. Tallest lighthouse in the U.S. (252) 995-4474.
Cape Hatteras National Seashore. 75 miles. (252) 473-2111.
Cape Lookout Lighthouse. (252) 728-2250.
Cape Lookout National Seashore, Harkers Island office. (252) 728-2250.
Carrot Island/Rachel Carson Estuarine Sanctuary. Across Taylor's Creek from the Beaufort waterfront.
Cedar Island National Wildlife Refuge. (252) 225-2511.
Chicamacomico Lifesaving Station, Rodanthe. Restoration. (252) 987-2394.
Croatan National Forest. Southwest of New Bern. (252) 638-5629.
Currituck Lighthouse, Corolla. (252) 453-4939.
Elizabeth II State Historic Site. Reproduction of a 16th century English sailing vessel. Manteo. (252) 473-1144.
Fort Macon State Park. Off N.C. 58. One of the 10 most-visited state parks in the country. (252) 726-3775.
Fort Raleigh National Historic Site. Sir Walter Raleigh's "lost" colony. Roanoke Island. (252) 473-5772.
Goose Creek State Park. Washington. (252) 923-2192.
Hammocks Beach State Park. Accessible by ferry off N.C. 24. (910) 326-4881.
Jockey's Ridge State Park, Nags Head. East Coast's highest sand dune. (252) 441-7132.
Lake Landing Driving Tour. (252) 925-5201 or (888) HYDE-VAN.
Lake Mattamuskeet/Swan Quarter National Wildlife Refuge. (252) 926-4021.
The Lodge at Mattamuskeet. (252) 926-1422.
Nags Head Woods Preserve. (252) 441-2525.
Neuse River Recreation Area. (252) 638-5628.
Ocracoke Lighthouse. (252) 928-4531.
Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge. Bird sanctuary. (252) 473-1131.
Portsmouth Island. Uninhabited fishing village maintained by the National Park Service. (252) 928-4361.
Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge. (252) 797-4431.
Saint Thomas Episcopal Church, Bath. Oldest church in North Carolina.
Theodore Roosevelt State Natural Area. Between Atlantic Beach and Pine Knoll Shores. (252) 726-3775.
Wright Brothers National Memorial, Kill Devil Hills. Site of first airplane flight. (252) 441-7430.

Electric Cooperatives

Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative (Buxton). (252) 995-4088.
Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative (Morehead City). (252) 247-3107.
Harkers Island EMC (Harkers Island). (252) 728-2593.
Tideland EMC (Pantego, Grantsboro, Ocracoke, Engelhard). (252) 943-3046.



Avon pier.

Lake Mattamuskeet.

SEE *North Carolina*

South Coast

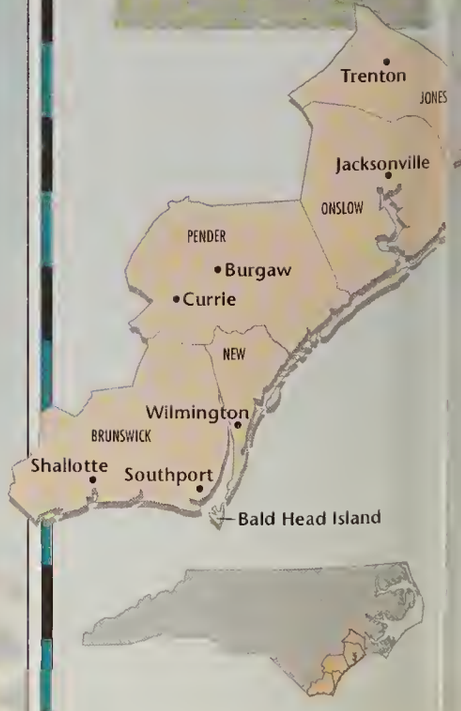
From Swansboro to Calabash, this coastline sparkles along Onslow Bay and tucks itself into Long Bay where you can actually see a sunset over the ocean.

The port of Wilmington with its historic district and upscale waterfront is the crown jewel. As the majestic Cape Fear River broadens, it passes Southport-by-the-Sea and rolls toward the point once called Cape Fair.

Gracious and gallant southern history is preserved at plantation houses and their grounds, Civil War forts, an American Revolution battlefield, the colonial Brunswick Town seaport and a WWII battleship.

Camp Lejeune, the world's most complete amphibious marine training base, dominates the region's northern reaches, and the expansive Holly Shelter Game Land shows its nature.

An intimacy with the sea gives the South Coast genuine fishing villages along the real Ocean Highway (U.S. 17), superb sailing in the Intracoastal Waterway, Bald Head lighthouse, seaside golf courses and family-friendly beach towns among its islands.



South Coast

Travel Information

Bald Head Island Information Center. (800) 234-1666.
Burgaw Area. (910) 259-9817.
Cape Fear Coast Convention and Visitors Bureau, Wilmington. (800) 222-4757 / (910) 341-4030.
Greater Hampstead. (910) 270-9642.
Greater Jacksonville-Onslow. (910) 347-3141.
Greater Topsail Area. (800) 626-2780.
Greater Wilmington. (910) 762-2611.
NC Brunswick Islands, Southport. (800) 795-7263.
Onslow County Tourism, Jacksonville. (800) 932-2144.
Pleasure Island , Carolina Beach. (910) 458-8434.
South Brunswick Islands , Shallotte. (800) 426-6644 / (910) 754-6644.
Southeastern Welcome Center, Inc. (910) 754-2505.
Southport-Oak Island. (800) 457-6964 / (910) 457-6964.
Swansboro. (910) 326-1174.

Culture and Recreation

Airlie Gardens. Off U.S. 74. (910) 763-4646.
The Burgwin-Wright House, Wilmington. Three-level gentleman's townhouse. (910) 762-0570.
Camp Lejeune Marine Corps Base. (910) 451-1113.
Cape Fear Museum, Wilmington. Social and natural history of the Lower Cape Fear area. (910) 341-4350.
Chandler's Wharf, Wilmington. Riverfront shopping and dining.
The Cotton Exchange. North Front Street, Wilmington. Specialty shops and restaurants.
Greenfield Gardens. U.S. 421 south. (910) 341-7855.
Horse-drawn Carriage and Trolley Tours. (910) 251-8889.
Lynwood Park Zoo. Hwy 258/24 Jacksonville. Land mammals, exotic birds, waterfowl, hoofed stock. (910) 938-5848.
Mike's Farm. Richlands. Hayrides, colonbial living. (910) 324-3422.
Museum of Coastal Carolina. Ocean Isle. (910) 579-1016.
North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher. (910) 458-8257.
Odell Williamson Auditorium. Brunswick Community College, Supply. (910) 754-3133.
Onslow County Museum. Richlands. Cultural and natural history. (910) 324-5008.
Opera House Theatre Company, Wilmington. (910) 762-4234.
Orton Plantation Gardens. South of Wilmington on N.C. 133. Former rice plantation. (910) 371-6851.
Poplar Grove Historic Plantation. U.S. 17 at Scotts Hill. (910) 686-9518.
Riverboat Cruises. (800) 676-0162.
St. John's Museum of Art, Wilmington. Encompassing the former St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church. (910) 763-0281.
Southport Maritime Museum. (910) 457-0003.
Southport Municipal Pier. Howe Street on the Cape Fear River.
Thalian Hall Center for the Performing Arts. (910) 343-3664.
Wilmington Adventure Walking Tours. (910) 763-1785.
The Wilmington Railroad Museum. (910) 763-2634.
Zebulon Latimer House, Wilmington. Four-story Italian Revival residence. (910) 762-0492.

Parks, Monuments, Historic Sites

Bald Head Island Lighthouse. Accessible by ferry.
The Battleship "North Carolina," Wilmington. Renovated World War II battleship. (910) 251-5797.
Beirut Memorial Wall. Jacksonville. Honors 273 killed in October 1983 bombing. (800) 932-2144.
Brunswick Town State Historic Site. First settlement in the Cape Fear area. (910) 371-6613.
Carolina Beach State Park. U.S. 421. (910) 458-8206.
Fort Fisher National Historic Site, Kure Beach. Civil War site. (910) 458-5538.
Hammocks Beach State Park, Off NC 24. (910) 326-4881.
Moores Creek National Battlefield. N.C. 210 NW of Wilmington. Revolutionary War site. (910) 283-5591.

Electric Cooperatives

Brunswick EMC (Shallotte, Whiteville, Oak Island, Bolivia). (910) 754-4391.
Four County EMC (Burgaw, Elizabethtown, Rose Hill). (910) 259-2171.
Jones-Onslow EMC (Jacksonville, Sneads Ferry). (910) 353-1940.

N. C. Travel & Tourism

N. C. Travel & Tourism

Wilmington waterfront.

SEE North Carolina

Roanoke Rapids to Kinston

This region's character comes from its rich, coastal plain farmland, its longtime role as a transportation corridor, and its development as a diversified society. It is authentic eastern North Carolina.

The state's best cotton, tobacco, corn and soybeans are produced here. Along these roads you can see old pack houses and newer bulk barns, historic auction warehouses, neatly planted fields that turn abundantly green, wagons loaded with firm cucumbers or compacted cotton, giant tractors, men and women working hard at a harvest.

Travelers have long found this a hospitable region. Railroads have connected all the cities. Routes 301 and I-95 are THE legendary north-south highways. Military aircraft command the sky. The Global TransPark soon will transform the region into a worldwide air shipping hub.

Even Sherman's army was not impeded in 1865 when it plundered this region. The southern portion, along the rich Neuse River plain, displays reminders of the Confederates' confrontation with Sherman. It all is explained at a state Historic Site in Bentonville. Although the plantation economy was finally laid to rest then, its elegant and fruitful aspects have been preserved in each county.

The area bred a population that has reckoned gradually and gracefully with its differences and its common destiny. Today, the amazing mix of people work and grow well together. Any place that produced Ava Gardner and Thelonius Monk must be doing something well.

Travel Information

Benson. (919) 894-3825.
Wayne County. (919) 734-2241.
Clayton. (919) 553-6352.
Eastern N.C. Chamber of Commerce. (919) 237-5151.
Farmville. (919) 753-4670.
Greater Smithfield-Selma Area. (919) 934-9166.
Greenville/Pitt County Convention & Visitors Bureau. (800) 537-5564.
Halifax County Tourism. (800) 522-4282.
Johnston County Visitors Bureau. (800) 441-7829.
Kenly. (919) 284-5510.
Kinston-Lenoir County. (252) 527-1131.
Kinston Convention & Visitors Bureau. (252) 523-2500.
Lagrange. (252) 527-1500.
Mt. Olive Area. (919) 658-3113.
Nash County Travel & Tourism Council. (800) 849-6825.
N.C. Welcome Center (I-95 North). (252) 537-9836.
N.C. Welcome Center (I-85 North). (252) 456-3236.
Greenville-Pitt Chamber of Commerce. (252) 752-4101.
Roanoke Valley. (800) 522-4282.
Rocky Mount Area. (800) 849-6825 / (252) 442-5111.
Scotland Neck. (252) 826-3917.
Tarboro-Edgecombe County. (252) 823-7241.
Wilson. (252) 237-0165.
Wilson Visitors Bureau. (800) 497-7398 / (252) 243-8440.

Culture and Recreation

Adventures in Health Childrens Museum. Greenville. Hands-on health exhibit and teaching center. (252) 752-7231.
Arts Council of Wilson. (252) 291-4329.
Atkinsons Mill. 240-year-old operating grist mill, outside Selma. Tours. (919) 965-3547.
Ava Gardner Museum. All about the legendary actress and county native. Smithfield. (919) 934-5830.
Blount-Bridgers House, Tarboro. 1808 plantation home includes the Hobson Pittman Memorial Art Gallery. (252) 823-4159.
Boyette-Slade and School House. Historic, one-room log house. Kenly. (919) 284-3431.
Buck Spring Plantation, Warrenton. Home of early political leader. (252) 257-3640.
Caswell No. 1 Fire Station Museum. Kinston. (252) 527-1566.
Community Council for the Arts, Kinston. Galleries, studios, historic district. (252) 527-2517.
Country Doctor Museum. Only such museum in the U.S. (252) 235-4165.
East Carolina Village of Yesteryear, Greenville. Agricultural life of the area from 1840-1940. On county fairgrounds. (252) 758-6385.
ExploraTown. Greenville. Children's museum and entertainment center. (252) 752-8984.
Factory Stores of America. Headquarters and over 64 outlets. Smithfield. (919) 934-9446.
"First For Freedom." Haifax. Outdoor drama about the Halifax Resolves. (800) 522-4282.
Greenville Museum of Art. (252) 758-1946.
Grifton Depot, Grifton. 1920 railroad depot. (252) 524-5169.
Grifton Historical Museum, Grifton. (252) 524-516
Harmony Hall, Kinston. Once owned by 1770s C Richard Caswell. (252) 522-0421.
Independence Station. Halifax. Co-op gallery of craf and artisans. (252) 583-2278.
Imagination Station, Wilson. Hands-on museum gea to children. (252) 291-5113.
Johnston County Heritage Center. Smithfield. (919) 934-8146.
JR's Tobacco & Fragrance Outlet. Selma. (919) 965-50
Kinston Indians. Minor league baseball. (252) 527-9
Lakeland Cultural Arts Center. Littleton. Year-rou dinner theater. (252) 586-3124.
Robert Lee Humber House, Greenville. Contains e ern office of state Division of Archives and hist (252) 830-6580.
Selma Antiques Mecca. Over 15 antique stores. (919) 965-9841.
Selma Railroad Depot. Historic Amtrak station. (919) 965-9841.
Southern National Speedway. Kenly. NASCAR Ap October. (919) 284-1114.
Stonewall, Rocky Mount. 1830 plantation house w furnishings. (252) 443-4148.
Tarboro Historic District & National Recreation Tr For a guide: (800) TARBORO.
Tobacco Farm Life Museum, Kenly. (919) 284-3431
Wayne County Museum, Goldsboro. (919) 734-502
Wilson Theatre-Grady Building, Wilson. Vaudeville ater under restoration. (252) 291-8281.

Pitt Cou

SEE North Carolina

Pine Plains

Roanoke Rapids to Kinston

Parks, Monuments, Historic Sites

Bentonville Battleground, Four Oaks. Site of N.C.'s largest land Civil War battle. (910) 594-0789.
Charles B. Aycock Birthplace, Freemont. 1846 coastal cottage where the governor was born. (919) 242-5581.
Clemmons State Forest. Educational forest in Clayton. (919) 553-5651.
Cliffs of the Neuse State Park, Seven Springs. 751 acres riverfront. (919) 778-6234.
CSS Ram Neuse State Historic Site and Richard Caswell Memorial, near Kinston. Restored remains of Neuse ironclad vessel. (252) 522-2091.
Historic Halifax. Restored buildings film, exhibits and guided tours of historic places. (252) 583-7191.
May Museum and Park, Farmville. May family artifacts. (252) 753-5814.
Medoc Mountain State Park, Halifax County. 2,287 acres. (252) 445-2280.
Neuseway Nature Park and Campground. Kinston. (252) 939-3367.
Roanoke Canal Trail. Roanoke Rapids. Seven-miles along early 19th century canal. (252) 965-9841.
River Park North, Greenville. (252) 830-4562.
Waynesborough State Park, Goldsboro. 142 acres. (919) 580-5391.

Electric Cooperatives

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC (Tarboro). (252) 823-2171.
Halifax EMC (Enfield). (252) 445-5111.
Pitt & Greene EMC (Farmville). (252) 753-3128.
Roanoke Electric Cooperative (Rich Square). (252) 539-2236.
Tri-County EMC (Dudley). (919) 735-2611.

Cliffs of the Neuse State Park.

Early explorers called this Pine Plains because of the tall pine forests and sandy plains that dominate the region between the Lumber, Cape Fear and Black rivers.

There are natural features here that you won't find anywhere else. Among vast pine barrens are the famous Carolina Bays, probably formed by a massive meteor cascade, containing unusual fish and plants. It's delightful in all seasons, especially from a canoe in the quiet rivers. Red Springs, in fact, grew because of its healthful nature. At Lake Waccamaw, you can feel the relaxing transformation that the clear water of the area can impart.

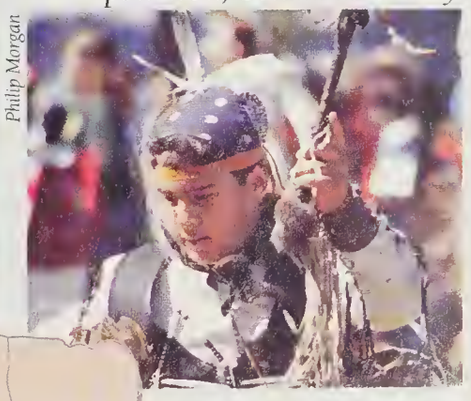
The population centers of Fayetteville, Lumberton, Elizabethtown, Whiteville, Clinton and Kenansville each has a distinctive personality formed by the influences of farming, manufacturing and the military.

Lumbee Indian society prevails in the western sections, and the heritage is displayed at Pembroke. Fort Bragg has shaped the northern part for more than 70 years. Duplin County has a genteel farming heritage and is famous for developing the muscadine grape. Lakes and rivers dominate Bladen County. And Columbus County reflects an industrial prowess. Touring the Cape Fear River plain and the Green Swamp (140 square miles) instills a deep respect for the vast forests of the Pine Plains.

Travel Information

Clinton Area. (910) 592-6177.
Duplin County Tourism. (800) 755-1755 /(910) 296-2180.
Elizabethtown-White Lake. (910) 862-4368.
Fair Bluff. (910) 649-7202.
Fayetteville Area C of C. (910) 483-8133.
Fayetteville Area Convention & Visitors Bureau. (800) 255-8217 / (910) 483-5311.
Greater Chadbourn. (910) 654-3445.
Greater Whiteville. (800) 538-2449 / (910) 642-3171.
Historic Fayetteville Foundation. (910) 863-4379.
Kenansville Area. (910) 296-0369.
Lumberton Area C of C and Visitors Bureau. (800) 359-6971/ (910) 739-9999.
Old Fayetteville Association. (910) 483-2073.
Pembroke. (910) 521-9758.
Red Springs. (910) 843-5441.
Saint Pauls. (910) 865-3890.
Spring Lake Area. (910) 436-1111.
Tabor City. (910) 653-2031.
Wallace. (910) 285-4044.
Warsaw. (910) 293-7804.

Waccamaw–Siouxian pow-wow, Columbus County.



Philip Morgan

Pine Plains

Culture and Recreation

Bow Street Commons, Fayetteville. Restored mercantile area.
Cowan Museum, Kenansville. (910) 296-2149.
Duplin Wine Cellars. U.S. 117, Rose Hill. (910) 289-3888.
Elwell Ferry, Bladen County. (910) 862-3396.
Fayetteville Market House. A historic market building landmark.
Flora Macdonald Campus and Gardens, Red Springs. (910) 843-5000.
John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Museum, Ft. Bragg. (910) 432-1533.
Liberty Hall Plantation, Kenansville. (910) 296-2175.
Museum of the Cape Fear, Fayetteville. (910) 486-1330.
N.C. Indian Cultural Center, Pembroke. (910) 521-2433.
UNC-Pembroke and American Indian Resource Center. (910) 521-6266.
Pope Air Force Base, inside Ft. Bragg. Limited tours. (910) 394-4183.
Robeson County Historical Showcase Museum, Lumberton. (910) 738-7979.
Robeson County Planetarium. (910) 739-3302.
World's Largest Frying Pan. Town Square, Rose Hill.

Parks, Monuments, Historic Sites

Bladen Lakes Educational State Forest, Elizabethtown. (910) 588-4964.
Fort Bragg Military Reservation and 82nd Airborne Division War Memorial. (910) 432-3443.
Heritage Square, Fayetteville. (910) 483-6009.
Jones Lake State Park, Elizabethtown. (910) 588-4550.
Lake Waccamaw State Park. (910) 646-4748.
Lumber River State Park, Orrum. (910) 628-9844.
Moores Creek National Battlefield, Currie. Revolutionary War site. (910) 283-5591.
Singletary Lake State Park, Kelly. (910) 669-2928.
Turn Bull Creek Educational State Forest, Elizabethtown. (910) 588-4161.

Electric Cooperatives

Brunswick EMC (Shallotte, Whiteville, Oak Island, Bolivia). (910) 754-4391.
Four County EMC (Burgaw, Elizabethtown, Rose Hill). (910) 259-2171.
Lumbee River EMC (Red Springs, Fairmont, Lake Rim, Laurinburg, Lumberton, Raeford). (910) 843-4131.
South River EMC (Dunn, Stedman, Anderson Creek). (910) 892-8071.

SEE *North Carolina*

The Triangle

Here is the hub of North Carolina — the official center of government, education, history, art, music, medicine, research and, in some seasons, college basketball.

The Triangle reaches from Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill into the surrounding countryside where citizens remain only as connected to the spokes as they choose. The collective population is about 1 million.

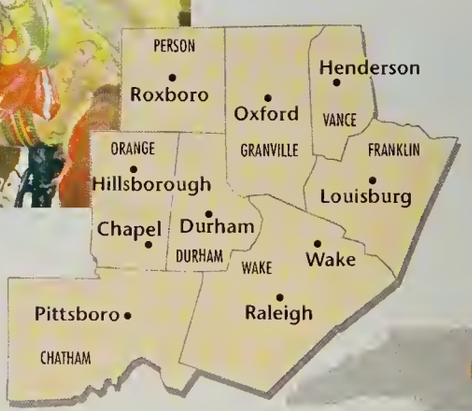
Anointed recently as one of the nation's best places to live and work, the Triangle also attracts a steady stream of visitors to its museums, handsome capitol building and government halls, fine universities, historic districts, renowned hospitals, competitive sporting events, the state fair, and cosmopolitan restaurants and shopping centers.

Just beyond the urban centers is an enviable collection of protected parks and wild areas — Eno River, Haw River, Falls Lake, Jordan Lake, Kerr Lake, Umstead Park, Duke Forest.

Some determined natives lament the fading of a North Carolina accent from the Triangle, while others embrace the mixing of cultures that has occurred here for two centuries. But if you look and listen long and hard — at a legislative committee hearing, or the Hillsborough court house, or the state farmers market, or a Franklin County church supper — you'll understand where you are.

GRCVB/Damrath

Pullen Park, Raleigh.



Travel Information

Apex. (919) 362-6456.
Cary. (919) 467-1016.
Chapel Hill-Carrboro. (919) 967-7075.
Chapel Hill/Orange County Visitors Bureau. (888) 968-2060 / (919) 968-2060.
Chatham County. (919) 742-3333.
Durham Convention and Visitors Bureau. (919) 687-0288. http://dcvb.durham.nc.us
Franklin County. (919) 496-3056.
Fuquay-Varina Area. (919) 552-4947.
Garner. (919) 772-6440.
Granville County. (919) 693-6125.
Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce. (919) 682-2133.
Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce. (919) 664-7032.
Greater Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau. (800)849-8499/(919)834-5900. www.raleighcvb.org
Henderson-Vance County. (919) 438-8414.
Hillsborough Area. (919) 732-8156.
Morrisville. (919) 380-9026.
Roxboro Area. (910) 599-8333.
Wake Forest Area. (919) 556-1519.
Wendell. (919) 365-6318.
Zebulon. (919) 269-6320.

Parks, Monuments, Historic Sites

Ayr Mount, Hillsborough. One of NC's finest plan tation houses. (919) 732-6886.
B. Everett Jordan Lake. U.S. 64. 47,000-acre recr ational lake. (919) 362-0586.
Bennett Place State Historic Site, Durham. Mee ing place for Civil War generals. (919) 383-434
Burwell School, Hillsborough. Historic house. (919) 732-7741.
Duke Forest, Durham. 8,300-acre natural area an environmental laboratory. (919) 613-8013.
Duke Homestead and Tobacco Museum, Durhan Ancestral home of the Duke family. (919) 477-5498.
Durham Bulls. Class A farm team of the Atlan Braves. (919) 956-BULL.
Eno River State Park/West Point on the Eno North Durham. (919) 383-1686.
Executive Mansion (Governor's residence), Raleig (919) 733-3456.
Falls Lake. Northwest of Raleigh. (919) 676-1072
Historic Stagville, Durham. Center for the study an teaching of preserving wooden buildings. (919) 477-9835.
Kerr Reservoir. 50,000-acre park extending into Vi ginia. North of Henderson. (919) 438-7791.
Lake Wheeler. South of Raleigh. (919) 662-5704
The Legislative Building. (919) 733-7928.
Mordecai Historic Park, Raleigh. (919) 834-4844.Mo trose Gardens, Hillsborough. (919) 732-7787.
North Carolina Botanical Garden. Off U.S. 15-5(Bypass. (919) 962-0522.
North Carolina Collection Gallery, Chapel Hi Exhibits on NC history and University of Nor Carolina history. (919) 962-1172.

The Triangle

J.C. Raulston Arboretum at NC State, Raleigh. (919) 515-3132.
Pullen Park, Raleigh. Features a restored 1911 Denzel carousel. (919) 831-6468.
Ruffin-Roulhac House, Hillsborough. Large estate constructed in the 1820s. (919) 732-2104.
The State Capitol. (919) 733-4994.
Sarah P. Duke Gardens. At Duke University, Durham. 55 landscaped areas. (919) 684-5579.
University Lake, Chapel Hill. (919) 942-8007.
William B. Umstead State Park. (919) 787-3033.

Culture and Recreation

Ackland Art Museum, Chapel Hill. (919) 966-5736.
African-American Cultural Complex. Raleigh. Exhibits contributions to the state and nation. (919) 231-0625.
Arts Center. Performances, concerts, dancing, art. Carrboro. (919) 929-2787.
Artspace. Gallery with artists' studios. (919) 821-2787.
Capital Area Visitor Center. Information center for Raleigh's state-owned, cultural and historic attractions. (919) 733-3456.
Carolina Ballet. (919) 856-0083.
Carolina Theatre. Durham. Film festivals to live performances. (919) 560-3040.
Cedar Creek Craft Gallery, Creedmoor. (919) 528-1041.
Chapel Hill Museum. (919) 967-1400.
City Gallery of Contemporary Art. National and regional artists. (919) 839-2077.
City Market, Raleigh. Spanish mission-style 1914 marketplace. (919) 828-4555.
Duke University, Durham. (919) 684-2323.
Duke University Museum of Art, Durham. (919) 684-5135.
Durham Arts Council, Durham. Three art galleries and home to 18 arts organizations. (919) 560-2787.
Historic Hillsborough. Over 100 late 18th and early 19th century structures. (919) 732-7741.
The Horace Williams House, Chapel Hill. (919) 942-7818.
Morehead Planetarium. (919) 549-6863.
North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh. State-funded art museum. (919) 839-6262.
North Carolina Museum of History, Raleigh. (919) 715-0200.
North Carolina Museum of Life and Science, Durham. Premier museum for children in the Triangle. (919) 471-4294.
North Carolina State Farmers Market, Raleigh. (919) 733-7417.
North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences, Raleigh. Focuses on natural history and environment of North Carolina. (919) 733-7450.
North Carolina State University, Raleigh. (919) 515-2011.
North Carolina Symphony. (919) 733-2750.
North Carolina Theatre. (919) 831-6941.
Oakwood Historic District, Raleigh. 400 private homes from 19th century. (919) 832-6077.
Orange County Historical Museum, Hillsborough. Depicts lifestyles from the time of the Indians through the Civil War era. (919) 732-2104.
Raleigh Little Theatre. (919) 821-4579.
Triangle SportsPlex, Hillsborough. (919) 644-0339.
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Self-guided tours: (919) 962-1630.
Village of Fearrington, near Pittsboro. Country village with fine shops, inn and 5-star dining. (919) 542-4000.
Wakefield/Joel Lane House. Oldest home in Raleigh. (919) 833-3431.

Electric Cooperatives

Piedmont EMC (Hillsborough, Roxboro). (919) 732-2123.
Wake EMC (Wake Forest, Zebulon). (919) 554-6300.

SEE *North Carolina*

The Sandhills

Many of North Carolina's best-known qualities are concentrated among these rolling hills of sandy soil: the 60-degree average temperature, longleaf pines, friendly towns, golf courses and car racing.

Pinehurst, Southern Pines, Whispering Pines — these places developed as resorts because of their charming surroundings. Transplants from all over retire here. This is, after all, the golf capital of the world.

Passenger rail travel boosted the development and is celebrated at Hamlet. Car racing continues to fuel it and is celebrated at Rockingham. In between are the more leisurely paced pursuits of horseback riding and bicycling so well suited to the terrain.

Its western edge contains the ancients: Uwharrie mountains and forest, the river named Pee Dee (Catawba phrase for "something good"), and 500-year-old Town Creek Indian Mound ceremonial grounds.

Travel Information

Angier. (919) 639-2500.
Convention and Visitors Bureau for the Village of Pinehurst, Southern Pines and Aberdeen Area. (800) 346-5362 / (910) 692-3330.
Dunn Area. (910) 892-4113.
Erwin Area. (910) 897-7300.
Laurinburg/Scotland County Area. (910) 276-7420.
Lillington Area. (910) 893-3751.
Montgomery County. (910) 572-4300.
Raeford-Hoke. (910) 875-5929.
Richmond County, Rockingham. (800) 858-1688 / (910) 895-9058.
Sandhills Area Chamber of Commerce. (910) 692-3926.
Sanford Area. (919) 775-7341.

Culture and Recreation

Bethesda Church and Cemetery, Aberdeen. 1790 historic church. (910) 944-1319.
Cameron Historic District. 19 historic places. Antique fairs in May and October. (910) 245-3697.
Campbell House, Southern Pines. Home of Arts Council, Raildroad Club, Southern Pines Recreation. (910) 692-4356.
Midland Crafters, on N.C. 2. Sells the work of many regional craftspeople. (910) 295-6156.
N.C. Motor Speedway, Rockingham. Major NASCAR races. (910) 582-2861.
National Railroad Museum and Hall of Fame, Hamlet. Railroad memorabilia.
The Performing Arts Center, Southern Pines. Performances by resident groups. (910) 692-3799.
Rankin Museum of American Heritage, Ellerbe. Traces humankind's adaptation to environment. (910) 652-6378.
Rockingham Dragway, Rockingham. (910) 582-3400.
Sandhills Women's Exchange, Pinehurst. Handmade early-American crafts and baked goods. (910) 295-4677.
Seagrove Potters. Pottery country. Most studios open to the public. Randolph/Moore/Montgomery
Tufts Archives, Pinehurst. James Walker Tufts' dream of Pinehurst displayed. (910) 295-3642.
Weymouth Center, Southern Pines. Historic home hosts N.C. Literary Hall of Fame, readings, concerts, lectures. (910) 692-6261.

Parks, Monuments, Historic Sites

The House in the Horseshoe State Historic Site. S.R. 1644, near Sanford. Colonial plantation home. (910) 947-2051.
Malcolm Blue Farm, Aberdeen. Antebellum farm on National Register of Historic Places. (910) 944-7558.
Sandhills Horticultural Garden, Pinehurst. Replica of a formally landscaped Elizabethan garden. (910) 695-3882 or 692-6185.
Shaw House, Southern Pines. 1840 Antebellum home of sturdy simplicity; home of Moore County Historical Association. (910) 692-2051.
Town Creek Indian Mound, near Mt. Gilead. 500-year-old burial site. (910) 439-6802.
Uwharrie National Forest. N.C. 24/27, east of Albemarle. (910) 576-6391.
Weymouth Woods Nature Preserve, Southern Pines. 600 acres of natural area, plus hiking trails. (910) 692-2167.

Electric Cooperatives

Central EMC (Sanford). (919) 774-4900.
Lumbee River EMC (Red Springs, Fairmont, Lake Rim, Laurinburg, Lumberton, Raeford). (910) 843-4131.
Randolph EMC (Asheboro, Robbins). (910) 625-5177.
Pee Dee EMC (Wadesboro, Rockingham). (704) 694-2114.
South River EMC (Dunn, Stedman, Anderson Creek). (910) 892-8071.

SEE North Carolina

Piedmont Triad

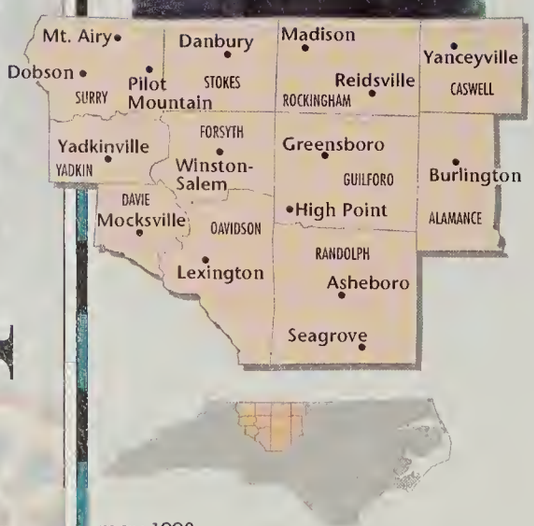
You might say that this is the heart of North Carolina. Settled by kind and gentle people, such as Moravians and Quakers, the region evolved into the source of North Carolina's refinement.

Here are the unrivaled sources of the state's furniture, cigarettes, shortbread and barbecue. Here, too, are the finest living history museums, performing arts school and ceramic crafts. And behind them all are the kindhearted communities that gave rise to the image of television's Mayberry.

Surrounding the Triad cities are the epitome of North Carolina's dedicated communities: textile works, orderly farms, peaceful churches and friendly main streets. Natural features such as Pilot Mountain, Hanging Rock and Yadkin River help explain the steady, piedmont character. And it's out here that you can taste a real "sonker" if you know where to look.

N.C. Zoological Park.

N. C. Travel & Tourism



Travel Information

Archdale-Trinity. (336) 434-2073.
Asheboro/Randolph C of C & Tourism Bureau. (336) 626-2626.
Burlington & Alamance County Convention and Visitors Bureau. (800) 637-3804 / (336) 570-1444.
Caswell County. (336) 694-6106.
Davie County. (336) 751-3304. daviecoc@ix.netcom.com
Eden. (336) 623-3336.
Greater Elkin-Jonesville-Arlington. (336) 526-1111.
Greater Mount Airy. (336) 786-6116.
Greensboro Area. (336) 275-8675.
Greensboro Area Convention and Visitors Bureau. (800) 344-2282.
High Point. (336) 889-8151.
High Point Convention and Visitors Bureau. (800) 720-5255 / (336) 884-5255.
Kernersville. (336) 993-4521.
King. (336) 983-9308.
Lexington Area. (704) 246-5929.
Mount Airy Visitor Center. (336) 789-4636.
Piedmont Triad Visitor Center. (800) 388-9830 / (336 388-9830.
Reidsville. (336) 349-8481.
Thomasville Area. (336) 475-6134.
Western Rockingham. (336) 548-6248.
Winston-Salem. (336) 725-2361.
Winston-Salem Convention and Visitors Bureau (800) 331-7018 / (336) 728-4200.
Winston-Salem Visitor Center. (800) 331-7018 / (336 797-3776.
Yadkin County. (336) 367-7251.

Culture and Recreation

Alamance Country Historical Museum. NC 62 Burlington. 19th Century house-museum depicting the life of textile pioneer Edwin M. Holt. (336) 226-8254.
Andy Griffith Playhouse, Mount Airy. (336) 786-7998.
Angela Peterson Doll and Miniature Museum, High Point. South's largest doll museum. (336) 885-3655.
Bernice Bienenstock Furniture Library, High Point. 7,000 volumes on furniture, design and the decorative arts. (336) 883-4011.
Burlington Manufacturers Outlet Center. I-85/I-40, Burlington. Exit 145. Over 75 outlets. (800) 637-3804.
Carousel-1910 Dentzel Menagerie. City Park, Burlington. One of 14 in the world.
The Carolina Theater, Greensboro. Restored 1927 vaudeville-style theater. (336) 333-2600.
Delta Arts Center, Winston-Salem. African-American arts and humanities. (336) 722-2625.
Diggs Gallery, Winston-Salem State University. African-American and contemporary art. (336) 750-2458.
Edwards-Franklin House, Surry County. 1799 plantation house museum of Surry County Historical Society. (336) 786-8359.
Emerald Point, Greensboro. Water amusement park. (336) 852-9721.
Fiddle and Bow, Winston-Salem. Triad's traditional music society. (336) 727-8100.
Furniture Discovery Center, High Point. (336) 885-6859.
Gallery at Old Salem, Winston-Salem. (336) 721-7300.
Greensboro Cultural Center at Festival Park. Home to 25 visual- and performing-arts organizations, five art galleries, restaurants, and an amphitheater.
Greensboro Historical Museum. History of the city and surrounding area. (336) 373-2043.
Haw River Historical Museum, Haw River. (336) 578-1646 or (336) 563-1593.
High Point Historical Museum. (336) 885-6859.
Korner's Folly, Kernersville. 1880 restored tour house filled with interior design wonders. (336) 996-7922.
Market Square, High Point. Renovated chair factory and trade show center. (336) 884-5255.
Mattye Reed African Heritage Center, Greensboro (N.C. A&T University). Over 3,500 African art objects. (336) 334-7874.
Museum of Anthropology, Winston-Salem. (336) 759-5282.
Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts, Winston-Salem. (336) 721-7300.
Natural Science Center of Greensboro. Hands-on museum, zoo, and planetarium. (336) 288-3769.
North Carolina School of the Arts, Winston-Salem. First state-supported arts school in the nation. (336) 721-1945.
Old Greensboro Preservation Society. Self-guided walking tour of downtown. (336) 272-6617.
Paramount Theater. Burlington. (336) 222-5001.
Piedmont Blues Preservation Society, Greensboro (336) 299-4476.
Piedmont Chamber Singers, Winston-Salem. (33 722-4022.
Piedmont Craftsmen, Inc., Winston-Salem. Represen 300+ of the Southeast's finest craftsmen. (336) 72 1516.
Piedmont Opera Theatre, Winston-Salem. (336) 723-7919.
Railroad Depot & Amphiteater. Burlington. (336) 222-5137.
R.J. Reynolds Whitaker Park, Winston-Salem. Cig rette manufacturing museum. (336) 741-5718.
Reynolda House Museum of American Art, Winsto Salem. American art displayed in the former hon of R.J. Reynolds. (336) 725-5325.
Richard Petty Museum, Level Cross. (336) 495-114
Sawtooth Building, Winston-Salem. Houses three a galleries. (336) 725-8916.
Seagrove. U.S. 220, south of Greensboro. Town wit over 20 active potteries.
SciWorks, Winston-Salem. Science Museum and Env ronmental Park. (336) 767-6730.
Snow Camp Outdoor Dramas. Snow Camp. "Th Sword of Peace" and "Pathway to Freedom," Jun August. (800) 726-5115.
Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, Winsto Salem. (336) 725-1904.
Springfield Museum of Old Domestic Life, High Poin (336) 889-4911.
Theatre Art Galleries, High Point. Encompasses thr exhibition areas. (336) 887-3415.
Weatherspoon Art Gallery, Greensboro. 4,000 worl of primarily contemporary American art. (336) 334-5770.
Capt. James & Emma Holt White House. Graham. A Gallery. (336) 226-4495.
Winston-Salem Piedmont Triad Symphony Orche tra. (336) 723-7919.
World's Largest Chest of Drawers, High Point. 32 tall. (336) 883-2016.

Surry County.

Piedmont Triad

Parks, Monuments, Historic Sites

Alamance Battleground. N.C. 62. Site of the battle that ended the War of the Regulation. (336) 227-4785.

Blandwood Mansion, Greensboro. (336) 272-5003.

Boone's Cave State Park. N.C. 150, on the Yadkin River. (704) 528-6514.

Burlington City Park, Lake Macintosh. (800) 637-3804.

Bryan Park. U.S. 29. On southern shore of 1,500-acre Lake Townsend. (336) 621-3583.

Cedarock Historical Working Farm & Park. NC 49S, Burlington. (336) 570-6769.

Charlotte Hawkins Brown Memorial State Historic Site. U.S. 70, Sedalia. On the campus of the former Palmer Memorial Institute (prestigious preparatory school for African Americans). (336) 449-4846.

Chinqua-Penn Plantation, Reidsville. 1920s country manor filled with eclectic art. (336) 349-4576.

City Lake Park, High Point. (336) 887-2511.

Guilford Courthouse National Military Park. Site of an important Revolutionary War battle. (336) 288-1776.

Hanes Park. Largest park in Winston-Salem. (336) 727-2137.

Hanging Rock State Park. N.C. 89, north of Winston-Salem. Largest state park in the Piedmont. (336) 593-8480.

Historic Bethabara Park, Winston-Salem. First Moravian settlement. (336) 924-8191.

Horne Creek Living Historical Farm, Surry County. Recreates life and work of 1900-1910. (336) 789-4636.

Jaycee and Country Parks. North of Greensboro on U.S. 20. (336) 288-2043.

Mendenball Plantation, Jamestown. Early 19th century Quaker Plantation. (336) 454-3819.

North Carolina Zoological Park. U.S. 220 near Asheboro. Large, natural-environment zoo. (336) 879-7000.

Oak Hollow Lake Park, High Point. (336) 883-3418.

Old Mill of Guilford. N.C. 68, Oak Ridge. Working mill dating back to 1745. (336) 643-4783.

Old Salem, Winston-Salem. 18th- and 19th-century Moravian town. (336) 721-7300.

Piedmont Environmental Center. Hiking trails, educational programs and the new NC Mapscape. (336) 454-4214.

Pilot Mountain State Park. U.S. 52, northwest of Winston-Salem. The area's most distinctive geologic attraction. (336) 325-2355.

Reynolda Gardens, Winston-Salem. (336) 725-5325.

Tanglewood. U.S. 158, south of Winston-Salem. 1,152-acre park. (336) 766-0591.

Tannenbaum Park, Greensboro. Features restored Revolutionary War house. (336) 545-5315.

Wright Tavern. Wentworth. Restored 19th century tavern with rare "Dog Run" architecture. (336) 342-5901.

Electric Cooperatives

Crescent EMC (Statesville, Mocksville, Cornelius, Taylorsville). (704) 873-5241.

Davidson EMC (Lexington, Madison). (336) 249-3131.

Piedmont EMC (Hillsborough, Roxboro). (919) 732-2123.

Randolph EMC (Asheboro, Robbins). (336) 625-5177.

Surry-Yadkin EMC (Dobson). (336) 386-8241.

SEE North Carolina

Greater Charlotte

Ever since they found gold in 1799, this place has been bound for glory. A U.S. Mint coined gold here until 1865. And today it's the financial center of the South.

It is not a gaudy glitter that adorns Charlotte, however. The region shines because it was polished faithfully and carefully, true to the personality of its namesake, Queen Charlotte Sophia of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, who assumed control upon the madness of King George III, her husband. (Mecklenburg's patriots, nevertheless, defied the British during the American Revolution causing Lord Cornwallis to give up his occupation of the "damned hornet's nest.")

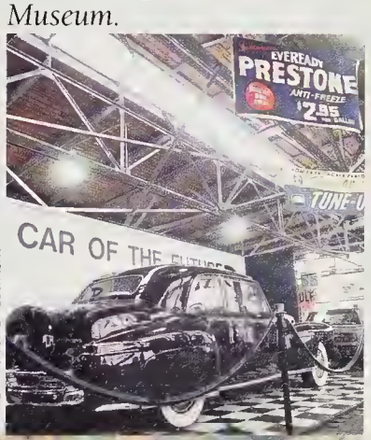
Today's Hornets, a professional basketball team, buzz in a top-notch coliseum. And the young Panthers, a professional football team, play in a new downtown stadium. These world-class sports teams are in the same league as the region's art and performance organizations and its business institutions.

Greater Charlotte leads North Carolina's commercial and industrial enterprise. You see its foundation in the outlying communities of Belmont, Concord, Gastonia and Kannapolis. You see its gentle and stately nature farther out in Waxhaw and Salisbury. You see its eager heirs around Monroe and Wadesboro. You see its fun spirit at Charlotte Motor Speedway and Carowinds. Because of the shine, you can't miss it.

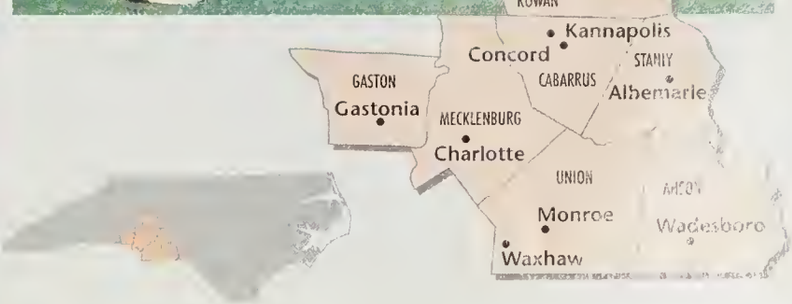
Travel Information

Anson County. (704) 694-4181.
Belmont. (704) 825-5307.
Bessemer City Area. (704) 629-3900.
Cabarrus County Visitors Center. (704) 938-4550.
Charlotte Chamber of Commerce. (704) 377-6911.
Charlotte Conv. and Visitors Bureau. (800) 231-4636.
Cherryville. (704) 435-3451.
Concord-Cabarrus County. (704) 782-4111.
Gaston County Travel & Tourism. (800) 849-9994.
Gaston County Chamber of Commerce. (704) 864-2621.
Kannapolis. (704) 932-4164.
Liberty. (336) 622-4937.
Marshville. (704) 624-3183.
Matthews. (704) 847-3649.
Mint Hill. (704) 545-9726.
North Mecklenburg C of C & Visitors Center. (704) 892-1922.
Rowan County Conv. & Visitors Bureau. (800) 332-2343 / (704) 638-3100.
Rowan County Chamber of Commerce. (704) 633-4221.
Stanly County. (704) 982-8116.
Union County. (704) 289-4567.

N.C. Transportation Museum.



N. C. Travel & Tourism



Greater Charlotte

Culture and Recreation

Afro-American Cultural Center, Charlotte. Multi-disciplinary arts organization. (704) 374-1565.
Carolina Raptor Center, Inc. At Latta Plantation Park. Center for care of injured birds. (704) 875-6521.
Charlotte Motor Speedway. NASCAR racing and tours. (704) 455-2121.
Charlotte Museum of History. Artifacts of local and regional history. (704) 568-1774.
Charlotte Repertory Theatre. (704) 333-8587.
Charlotte Symphony Orchestra. (704) 332-0468.
Charlotte Trolley Museum. (704) 375-0850.
Children's Theatre of Charlotte. Performances and classes. (704) 333-8938.
Discovery Place, Charlotte. Hands-on science and technology museum. (800) 935-0553 / (704) 372-6261.
Downton Salisbury. (704) 637-7814.
Gaston County Museum of Art and History, Dallas. (704) 922-7681.
Mint Museum of Art, Charlotte. Local and regional history in permanent and changing exhibits. (704) 568-1774.
Nature Museum, Charlotte. Specially designed for small children. (800) 935-0553 / (704) 372-6261.
Opera Carolina, Charlotte. (704) 372-7464.
Oratorio Singers of Charlotte. (704) 332-7464.
Paramount's Carowinds. I-77 on N.C./S.C. border. Theme park. (800) 822-4428 / (704) 588-2606.
Salisbury Heritage Tour. Audio walking tour of Historic Salisbury. (800) 332-2343.
Schiele Museum of Natural History, Gastonia. Most frequently visited museum in the state. (704) 864-3962.
Spirit Square Center for the Arts. Uptown Charlotte's premier arts center. (800) 922-6431 / (704) 372-9664.
University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Brochure with map at the information booth inside the N.C. 49 entrance.
A Walk Thru Historic Fourth Ward. Self-guided tour of Uptown Charlotte. (704) 376-0105.
Waterworks Visual Arts Center, Salisbury. Regional exhibits, sensory garden. (704) 636-1882.

Parks, Monuments, Historic Sites

Cannon Village, Kannapolis. Restored textile mill merchandise center. (704) 938-3200.
Crowders Mountain State Park. U.S. 321. Kings Mountain area, site of a major Revolutionary War battle. (704) 867-1181.
Dan Nichols Park, Salisbury (704) 636-2089.
Freedom Park. 1900 East Blvd. Charlotte. (704) 353-1236.
Hezekiah Alexander Homesite, Charlotte. Oldest standing dwelling in Mecklenburg County.
James K. Polk Memorial, Pineville. (704) 337-2000.
Lake Norman. (704) 373-7303.
Latta Place/Latta Plantation Nature Preserve. Off I-77, Huntersville. 1800s plantation house and grounds. (704) 875-1391.
McDowell Nature Preserve. Off N.C. 49 south. The county's largest park. (704) 583-1176.
Morrow Mountain State Park. N.C. 740 east of Charlotte. (704) 982-4402.
North Carolina Transportation Museum/ Historic Spencer Shops, Spencer. (704) 636-2889.
Reed Gold Mine. N.C. 24/27 east of Charlotte. First documented gold mine in the United States. (704) 786-8337.
Salisbury National Cemetery. (704) 636-2661.
UNC-Charlotte Botanical Gardens. (704) 547-4286.
Uwharrie National Forest. N.C. 24/27, east of Albemarle. (910) 576-6391.
Wing Haven Gardens and Bird Sanctuary, Charlotte. (704) 331-0664.

Electric Cooperatives

Crescent EMC (Statesville, Mocksville, Cornelius, Taylorsville). (704) 873-5241.
Pee Dee EMC (Wadesboro, Rockingham). (704) 694-2114.
Rutherford EMC (Forest City, Morganton, Crouse). (828) 245-1621.
Union EMC (Monroe, Oakboro). (704) 289-3145.

SEE *North Carolina*

Catawba Foothills

Indians of the Catawba strain ("people of the river banks") were well settled here and into South Carolina when DeSoto passed through in 1540. Cherokee lived in the western hills. Today you can see how they sustained themselves heartily raising food and animals in these wide open lands.

Later, people came here and stayed on because it seemed so healthful, with mountain springs, broad lakes and rivers, plentiful flowering grasslands, and views of distant mountains. Gemstones in the foothills were a big draw, too.

In the late 1920s, the Morse brothers carefully made Lake Lure, Chimney Rock and the Hickory Nut Gorge area into a tasteful attraction where visitors can appreciate the natural surroundings.

It's obvious that widescale, fast-paced development is not the norm here. Towns like Hickory, Morganton, Marion, Rutherfordton and Forest City have a self-assured sense about them. Shelby's handsome downtown and Tryon's horse-country environment deliver a message that they know what they are about and where they are headed.

Relaxed driving in this region can be one of the most satisfying excursions in all of North Carolina.

Burke County.

Catawba Foothils

Travel Information

Alexander County. (828) 632-8141.
Burke County Travel & Tourism. (828) 433-6793 bctcc@hci.net.
Catawba County. (828) 328-6111.
Cleveland County. (704) 487-8521.
Cleveland County Economic Development Commission, Shelby. (704) 484-4999. www.co.cleveland.nc.us
Greater Hickory Convention and Visitors Bureau. (828) 322-1335.
Greater Statesville. (704) 873-2892.
Hickory Nut Gorge Chamber of Commerce. (828) 625-2725.
Kings Mountain Branch of Cleveland County. (704) 739-4755.
Lincolnton-Lincoln County. (704) 735-3096.
McDowell Chamber of Commerce. (828) 652-4240.
McDowell Tourism Development Authority. Marion. (888) 233-6111.
Mooresville-South Iredell. (704) 664-3898.
Old Fort. (828) 668-7223.
Polk County Visitors Center, Tryon. (800) 440-7848.
Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce. (828) 287-3090.
Rutherford County Tourism Development. (800) 849-5998 / (828) 286-1110.
Tryon Thermal Belt. (828) 859-6236.

Culture and Recreation

Alva Theatre, N. Sterling St., Morganton. First in Burke County to show "talkies." A photo studio now.
Arts and Science Center of Catawba Valley, Hickory. (828) 324-4906.
Arts and Science Center, Statesville. (704) 873-4734.
Brown Mountain Lights. Overlook on Hwy. 181N, Morganton. Visible on clear nights. (828) 433-6793.
Bunker Hill Covered Bridge, Claremont. One of two in N.C. (828) 465-0383.
Catawba River Canoe Trips. From Morganton. (828) 437-7016.
C. Grier Beam Truck Museum, Cherryville. (704) 435-3072.
Carson House, Marion. Early 19th century house of family who gave townsite. (828) 724-4948.
Cleveland County Arts Center. In 1916 post office, uptown Shelby. (704) 484-2787.
Cleveland County Historical Museum, Shelby. (704) 482-8186.
Dale's Market, Enola Rd. & Dale St., Morganton. In continuous use since 1900.
"From This Day Forward." Outdoor drama, Valdese. Story of Waldensian people. Exhibits on adjacent site. (800) 743-8398.
Globe Theater, Alexander Mills. Like Shakes-peare's.
Green River Plantation, 1804 house open by reservation. South of Rutherfordton. (828) 287-0983.
Hickory Crawdads. Minor league baseball, Clement Blvd., Hickory. (800) 488-3237.
Hickory Furniture Mart. (828) 322-3510.
Hickory Motor Speedway. NASCAR track. (828) 464-3655.
Hiddenite Center, Hiddenite. 1914 mansion, gems, art, dolls. (828) 632-6966.
Hiddenite Gems, Hiddenite. "Gem Capital of the World." (828) 632-3394.
Kings Mountain Fire Department Historical Museum, Kings Mountain. (704) 734-0555.
Kouris Warehouse, Shelby. Colonial revival warehouse home to the Farmers' Market.
Lincolnton Cultural Center, Lincolnton. Museum of history; performance hall. (704) 739-9055.
Maple Grove and Propst House, Hickory. Open by appointment. (828) 322-4731.
McDowell Arts & Crafts Assn. Marion. (828) 652-8610.
Mountain Gateway Museum, Old Fort. (828) 668-9259.
Murray's Mill, Catawba. Restored family grist mill. (828) 465-0383.
Newton Historic District. Includes Catawba County Museum of History. (828) 465-7400.
Old Fort Railroad Museum. Old Fort. (828) 668-7223.
Polk County Historical Museum. In the historic Tryon train depot.
Saluda Grade. Between Saluda and Tryon. Steepest standard guage mainline railroad grade in U.S. Adjacent Hwy. 176 is a state Bicycle Highway.
Sen. Sam Ervin Jr. Library, Morganton. At Western Piedmont Community College. (828) 438-6000.
Shelby Historic District. Walking tour. (704) 481-1842.
Upstairs Gallery. Non-profit contemporary art space. Tryon.
Waldensian Museum, Valdese. Focuses on early Italian settlers of the area. Sundays, April--October. (828) 874-2531

Parks, Monuments, Historic Sites

Bottomless Pools, Lake Lure. Natural area in Hickory Nut Gorge.
Old Burke County Courthouse, Morganton. Focal point of Historic District, contains Heritage Museum. (828) 437-4104.
Chimney Rock Park, near Bat Cave. View of Lake Lure and Blue Ridge Mountains, plus recreation areas. (800) 277-9611.
Crowder's Mountain State Park, Kings Mountain. (704) 867-1181.
Duke Power State Park, Lake Norman. (704) 528-6350.
Foothills Equestrian Nature Center. Tryon. Hiking and riding trails in 300-acre preserve. (800) 440-7848.
Lake James State Park, Nebo. (828) 652-5047.
Linville Caverns, between Linville and Marion. Massive limestone caves. (828) 756-4171.
Linville Gorge. Wilderness area in Pisgah National Forest. (828) 652-2144.
Orchard at Altapass, Between milepost 328 & 329, Blue Ridge Parkway. (828) 765-9531.
Pearson's Falls. 90-foot waterfall, Saluda. (828) 749-3031.
Quaker Meadows Plantation, Morganton. Restored McDowell family brick house. (828) 437-4104.
South Mountains State Park, Connelly Springs. (828) 433-4772.

Electric Cooperatives

Blue Ridge EMC (Lenoir). (828) 754-9071.
Crescent EMC (Statesville, Mocksville, Cornelius, Taylorsville). (704) 873-5241.
Rutherford EMC (Forest City, Morganton, Crouse). (828) 245-1621.

Chimney Rock Park.

SEE North Carolina

The Blue Ridge

As American pioneers moved westward, the Blue Ridge Mountains slowed them down. So many of them settled here. These are big mountains, the highest in the East.

The views to peaks and misty valleys inspired a national park through here —the Blue Ridge Parkway— solely for driving and gazing. All along it are engaging communities and cool, beautiful wild areas.

Asheville is its anchor and is indeed a solid, magnetic city. The Grove Park Inn, Biltmore Estate and business area testify to a vision limited only by the sky.

Farther up into the mountains, the scale and quiet become enormous. The challenge of living here is reflected in the unassuming communities. They understand the balance they must acquire in such awesome nature. You can sense it in the inspired music and handcrafts made here. You have to see this place and touch it to believe it.

Travel Information

Alleghany County. (336) 372-5473.
Ashe County. (336) 246-9550.
Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce. (828) 258-6101. cvb@ashevillechamber.org
Asheville Travel and Tourism. (800) 257-1300.
Avery/Banner Elk. (828) 898-5605.
Beech Mountain. (828) 387-9283.
Black Mountain. (828) 669-2300.
Blowing Rock. (828) 295-7851.
Blue Ridge Parkway. National Park scenic highway. (828) 271-4779.
Boone Convention & Visitors Bureau. (800) 852-9506.
Caldwell County. (828) 726-0616.
Madison County. (828) 689-9351.
Mitchell County. Spruce Pine. (828) 765-9483.
Mountain Information Centers, Asheville. (828) 258-4662.
High Country Host. Travel and accommodations information. (800) 438-7500.
N.C. Welcome Center. (I-40 West). (828) 627-6206.
Wilkes County. (336) 838-8662.
Yancey County. Burnsville. (828) 682-7413.

Culture and Recreation

An Appalachian Summer. Arts and culture festival at Appalachian State University. (828) 264-2120, (800) 841-ARTS.
Appalachian Ski Mountain, near Boone. Eight slopes. (828) 295-7828.
Art by Johannes A.S. Oertel. In St. James Episcopal Church, Lenoir. (828) 754-3712.
Art in the Park, Blowing Rock. Juried arts and crafts in summer. (828) 295-7851.
Ashe County Arts Center. (336) 246-ARTS.
Ashe County Frescoes. At St. Mary's Episcopal Church, outside West Jefferson (336) 982-3076.
Ashe County Cheese Co. Landmark attraction. (336) 246-2501.
Asheville Community Theatre. (828) 254-1320.
Asheville Symphony. (828) 254-7046.
Asheville Tourists. Class A baseball. (828) 258-0428.
Asheville Walking Tour. (828) 254-2343.
Biltmore Homespun Shops, Asheville. Shops and weaving museum adjoins Grove Park Inn. (828) 253-7651.
Caldwell Historical Museum, Lenoir. (828) 758-4004. (828) 758-1496.
Daniel Boone Native Gardens, Boone. Native plants. (828) 264-6390.
Emerald Village, Little Switzerland. Underground museum in an old mine. (828) 765-6463.
Folk Art Center, near Asheville. Work of Southern Highlands Handicraft Guild. (828) 298-7928.
Furniture Shopping. 37 dealers in 20 miles on U.S. 321 in Caldwell County. (800) 737-0782.
Garden of the Senses. Especially nice for the sense-impaired. At Wilkes Community College. (336) 838-6100.
Glen Burney Trail, Blowing Rock. 1.5-mile hiking trail. (828) 295-7851.
Goodwin Guild Weavers, U.S. 321 Bypass. (828) 295-3394.
Grove Park Inn. Historic grand hotel. (800) 438-5800.
Hickory Ridge Homestead. 18th Century living history museum, next to "Horn in the West," Boone. 1(828) 264-2120.
"Horn in the West," Boone. Outdoor drama about the Daniel Boone period. (828) 264-2120.
Mast General Store, Valle Crucis. A legend since 1883. (828) 963-6511.
Museum of North Carolina Minerals. Part of Blue Ridge Parkway Visitor Center.
Mystery Hill, U.S. 221/321. Amusement house, Appalachian Heritage Museum, N.C. Military Museum. (828) 264-2792.
Old Wilkes Jail. 1860 jail once held Tom Dooley. Wilkesboro. Walking tour. (336) 667-3712.
Parkway Craft Center, Blue Ridge Parkway. Sales outlet for Southern Highlands Handicraft Guild. (828) 295-7938.
Pack Place, Asheville. New arts and science center with art museum, Colburn Mineral Museum. (828) 257-4500.
Patterson School. Historic boarding school and 1,400-acre grounds including Chapel of Rest, historic church and cemetery. Caldwell County. (828) 758-2374.
Penland School, near Spruce Pine. Crafts school since 1929. Gallery and tours: (828) 765-6211.
Scenic Byway, Wilkesboro. Historic sites, scenic drive. (336) 838-8662.
Singing on the Mountain, Grandfather Mountain. Outdoor gospel concert since 1930. (828) 733-4337.
Ski Beech. Beech Mountain. State's largest ski resort. (828) 387-2011.
Ski Hawksnest, Seven Devils. 9-slope ski mountain. (828) 963-6561.

N. C. Travel & Tourism

Grandfather Mountain.

SEE *North Carolina*

Nantahala: the Southern Highlands

An overwhelming sense of ancient legends penetrates much of the southern highlands of far western North Carolina. You believe that life here is so old we can't imagine it, yet we somehow understand its themes.

Nantahala was the Cherokee name for "sun in the middle," referring to regions deep in mountain gorges, warmed only at midday but glowing inside all the while. It's a name that is immediately recognizable when you're in the middle of it.

Haywood County is "the gateway to the Great Smoky Mountains" and keeper of the region's heritage. West of here are adventurous wildlands and the Cherokee Indian Reservation that in places hold the exotic allure of another country altogether.

Hendersonville leads into the lovely southern mountains and magnificent scenery of Transylvania County, Cashiers, Franklin and Highlands that draw tourists and new settlers for good reason.

Sliding Rock, Transylvania County.

N. C. Travel & Tourism

The Blue Ridge

Smith-McDowell Museum of Western North Carolina History, Asheville. Restored house, oldest in Asheville. (828) 253-9231.
Sugar Mountain Resort, Banner Elk. 18-slope ski mountain. (828) 898-4521.
Tweetsie Railroad, U.S. 221/321. Amusement park and frontier village with narrow-gauge railroad. (800) 526-5740.
Western North Carolina Farmers Market, Asheville. (828) 253-1691.
Whippoorwill Academy, Ferguson. Historic schoolhouse, open to the public. (336) 973-3237.
Historic Wilkesboro. (336) 667-3712.
Wolf Laurel, near Mars Hill. Ski mountain. (828) 689-4111.

Parks, Monuments, Historic Sites

Biltmore Estate, near Asheville. Magnificent estate built for George W. Vanderbilt in 1895, with 250-room mansion, 125,000-acre grounds, vineyard and winery. (800) 543-2961.
The Blowing Rock, off U.S. 321. Viewing area and gift shop. (828) 295-7111.
Craggy Gardens, off Blue Ridge Parkway. Trails with views. (828) 298-0398.
Cumberland Knob. 1,000 acres, 2,740 feet high. Upper Alleghany County on the parkway.
Doughton Park. 7,000 acres, trails, 3,700 feet up. Near Sparta.
Fort Defiance. Home of Gen William Lenoir family on site of a late 18th century fort. Yadkin Valley. (828) 726-0616.
Grandfather Mountain, near Linville. Park with visitor center, trails, overlooks. (800) 468-7325.
Linville Caverns, between Linville and Marion. Massive limestone caves. (828) 756-4171.
Linville Gorge. Wilderness area in Pisgah National Forest. (828) 652-2144.
Mt. Jefferson State Park. (336) 246-9653.
Mount Mitchell State Park, Yancey County. Highest peak in the East. (828) 675-4611.
New River State Park. Ashe County. (910) 982-2587.
The Orchard at Altapass. Working orchard along Blue Ridge Parkway (milepost 328.3). (828) 765-9531.
Pisgah National Forest. (828) 877-3265.
Rendezvous State Forest. Talking tree trail. Western Wilkes County. (336) 667-5072.
Stone Mountain State Park. Northeast Wilkes County. (336) 957-8185.
Thomas Wolfe Memorial, Asheville. State Historic Site, home of the writer. (828) 253-8304.
Tom "Dooley" Dula-Laura Foster. Grave and memorial marker. Victim of love triangle, 1866. Wilkes County. (336) 667-3712.
University Botanical Gardens, Asheville. (828) 252-5190.
W. Kerr Scott Reservoir. Wilkes County. (336) 921-3390.
Western North Carolina Nature Center, Asheville. Animals and plants in natural habitat. (828) 298-5600.
Zebulon B. Vance Homestead, near Weaverville. State Historic Site, reconstructed home of North Carolina Civil War-era statesman. (828) 645-6706.

Electric Cooperatives

Blue Ridge EMC (Lenoir, Boone, West Jefferson, Sparta). (828) 758-2383.
French Broad EMC (Marshall, Burnsville, Bakersville). (704) 649-2051.

N. C. Travel & Tourism

The Blue Ridge Parkway.

Nantahala: the Southern Highlands

Travel Information

Andrews. (828) 321-3584.
Brevard-Transylvania Chamber of Commerce. (828) 883-3700.
Brevard/ Transylvania County Tourism. (800) 648-4523.
Cashiers Area. (828) 743-5191.
Cherokee Chamber of Commerce. (800) 438-1601 / (828) 497-9195.
Cherokee County. (828) 837-2242.
Cherokee Indian Reservation. (800) 438-1601.
Clay County. (828) 389-3704.
Dillsboro Merchants Assn. (828) 586-6542.
Franklin Area. (800) 336-7829.
Graham County. (828) 479-3790.
Greater Haywood County. (828) 456-3021.
Greater Hendersonville. (828) 692-1413.
Henderson County Travel & Tourism. (800) 828-4244.
Highlands. (828) 526-2112.
Jackson County Travel & Tourism. (800) 962-1911 / (828) 586-2155.
Maggie Valley Area Convention & Visitors Bureau. (800) 785-8259/ (828) 926-1686.
Swain County. (800) 867-9246 / (828) 488-3681.

Culture and Recreation

Brevard Music Center. (828) 884-2011.
Canton Historical Museum. (828) 646-3412.
Cataloochee Ski Area. Nine slopes. (800) 768-0285.
Fish and Game Management. (828) 497-5201.
Flat Rock Playhouse Theatre. Summer theater. (828) 693-0731.
Fontana Village. Resort built from workers village during 1941 dam construction. (800) 849-2258.
Franklin Gem and Mineral Museum. (828) 369-7831.
Ghost Town in the Sky, Maggie Valley. Theme park recreates Old West town. (828) 926-1140.
Great Smoky Mountains Railway. Scenic mountain excursions. Dillsboro. (800) 872-4681.
Haywood Arts Repertory Theatre. (828) 456-6322.
Henderson County Farmers Mutual Curb Market, Hendersonville. (828) 692-8012.
High Hampton Inn. Historic inn, Cashiers. (800) 334-2551.
Highlands Playhouse. Summer theater. (828) 526-2695.
John C. Campbell Folk School, Brasstown. Traditional Appalachian crafts school since 1925. (828) 837-2775.
Llama treks. (828) 627-6986.
MACO Crafts, Inc., Franklin. Largest craft cooperative in the Appalachian Mountains. (828) 524-7878.
Macon County Art Association. (828) 524-9647.
Macon County Historical Society. In the historic Pendergrass building, Franklin. (828) 524-9758.
Mountain Heritage Center. At Western Carolina University, Cullowhee. (828) 227-7129.
Mountain Skate Center. Waynesville. (828) 456-4441.
Museum of the Cherokee Indian, Cherokee. (828) 497-3481.
Museum of North Carolina Handicrafts. At historic Shelton House, Waynesville. (828) 452-1551.
Nantahala Gorge. For whitewater excursions: Carolina Outfitters (800) GOT-RAFT, Nantahala Outdoors (800) 232-7238, Nantahala Rafts (800) 245-4811, Rolling Thunder River (800) 344-5838, Wildwater (800) 451-9972.
Oconaluftee Indian Village, Cherokee. Re-creation of late 18th century Cherokee village, surrounded by botanical garden. (828) 497-2315.
Qualla Arts and Crafts Mutual, Inc., Cherokee. Most successful Indian-owned craft cooperative in the U.S. (828) 497-3103.
Ruby City Gems & Minerals, Franklin. Lapidary shop and supplier. (828) 524-3967.
Soco Cardens Zoo. Maggie Valley. (828) 926-1746.
Scottish Tartans Museum. Franklin. (828) 369-7439.
Ski Scaly. South of Highlands. (800) 342-1387.
Southern Expressions Gallery & Studios, near Brevard. Contemporary mountain crafts. (828) 884-6242.
Stompin' Ground, Maggie Valley. Professional clogging shows. (828) 926-1288.
"Unto These Hills," Cherokee. Outdoor drama of Cherokee emigration. (828) 497-2111.

Parks, Monuments, Historic Sites

Carl Sandburg Home, Flat Rock. National Historic Site on 240-acre farm. (828) 693-4178.
Cradle of Forestry in America, U.S. 276. Visitor center in Pisgah National Forest with history of Biltmore Estate forest and school. (828) 877-3130.
Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Half-million acres along Tennessee border. N.C. entrance at Cherokee. Three visitor centers. Catlinburg phone: (615) 436-1200.
Highlands Nature Center. Flora, fauna and artifacts of the Nantahala region. (828) 526-2623.
Holmes State Forest, southwest of Hendersonville. Picnic areas, trails, camping. (828) 692-0100.
Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest. Untouched virgin forest with areas of trails. (828) 479-6431.
Nantahala National Forest. 1.36 million acres, established 1911. (828) 526-3765.
Pisgah National Forest. Trails, picnic and camping areas in 6,400-acre forest. (828) 877-3265.

Electric Cooperatives

Blue Ridge Mountain EMC (Young Harris, Ga). (404) 379-3121.
Haywood EMC (Waynesville, Lake Toxaway). (828) 452-2281.

Bridal Veil Falls.

N. C. Travel & Tourism

Museum of N.C. Handicrafts, Waynesville.

Carolina compass

Uniquely Rowan

May 1-3, Salisbury
Spring arts festival merges with Mayfest. Featuring storytellers Jackie Torrence, Doc McConnell and Diane Ferlatte. Dance and music stages, artists, classic cars, barbecue, frosties, chicken plates and Cheerwine. At Fisher and Church Streets. Friday 6-9 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sunday 1-7 p.m. (704) 638-9887.

Spring Fest '98

May 2, Jefferson
Arts and entertainment for children. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Mountainview Elementary.
(336) 246-2787.

Spring Studio Tour

May 2, Danbury
Maps will be available at the arts council office prior to the artist tour and at different locations throughout the county on the day of the tour. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (910) 593-8159.

Springfair

May 8-16, Winston-Salem
Carnival rides, games and shows, exhibits, entertainment, food and fun. DixieClassic Fairgrounds. Adults, $4; 6-11, $2; children 5 and under, free. (336) 727-2236.

Concert

May 8, Winston-Salem
Tenor Richard Heard in concert. 8 p.m. $4. Reynolda House. (910) 725-5325.

Antiques Show

May 8-9, Lenoir
Furniture, glassware, linens and jewelry. Glassware repair, garden statuary shop and Terrace Café. Door prizes and a grand prize trip to Williamsburg. Tickets for the two-day show are $3 in advance, $5 at the door. (828) 757-5525.

Fiddlers' & Bluegrass Convention

May 9, Mocksville
Prizes awarded for best: bluegrass band, old time band, fiddler, banjo, guitar, mandolin, bass and more. Registration begins at 4 p.m. Program starts at 7 p.m. Admission, $7. (336) 998-9887.

Plant Sale

May 9, Boone
Sponsored by the Watauga County Arts Council. At the Jones House Community Center. (828) 264-1789.

Mai Fest

May 9, Williamston
Arts, crafts, food, entertainment. Free. Williamston High School campus and amphitheater. (919) 792-1575.

Leisurefest

May 9, Denton
Festival highlighting NC leisure time activities. Children's area, crafts and food. Parade at 3 p.m. (336) 859-5922.

Springfest

May 9, Shelby
Arts, crafts, food and entertainment all day. On the Court Square in uptown Shelby. (704) 482-8186.

Buggy Festival

May 9-10, Carthage
Saturday, 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. Downtown. (910) 947-2504.

Yakety Sax Man

May 14, Winston-Salem
Boots Randolph performs at the Stevens Center. 8 p.m. $19 for adults, $17 for students and seniors. (910) 721-1945.

Garden Party

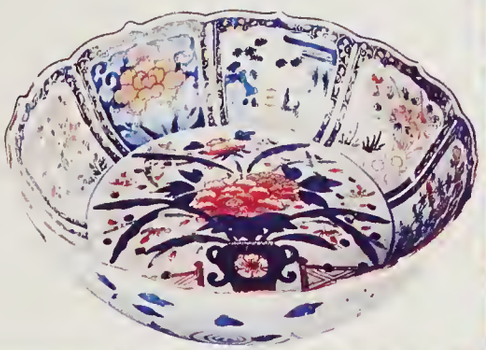
May 15, Canton
Local horticulture club sale and show. Flowers, bedding plants, baskets, flowering herbs and more. Also, barbecue fundraiser. On Sorrells St.
(828) 648-7925.

Lecture

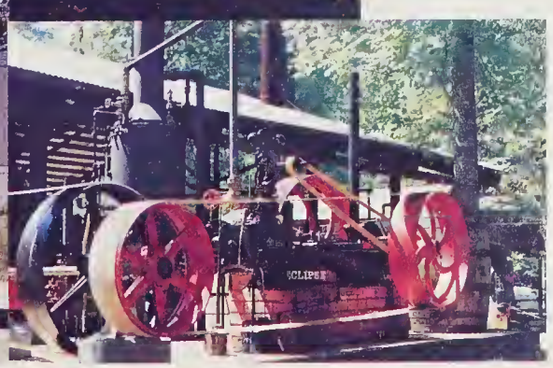
May 15, Winston-Salem
David Hill, landscape architect of the Blue Ridge Parkway, will discuss "Art and the Blue Ridge Parkway." 8 p.m. $3. Reynolda House. (910) 725-5325.

Lipizzan Stallions

May 15-17, Warrensville
Herrmann's Royal Lipizzan Stallions of Austria at Northwest Ashe High School. May 15 – 7 p.m.; May 16 – 8 p.m.; May 17 – 2 p.m. (336) 246-4483.



Japanese porcelain at Charlotte's Mint Museum through June 21.



(upper right) Spanish colonial art at Charlotte's Mint Museum.

(left) Fossil Festival, May 23-24.

(right) Ole Mill Cranberry May 16-17.

Carolina compass

Music on Main Street

May 16, Williamston
Historic downtown Williamston. (252) 792-0409.

Handbell Festival

May 16, Warrensville
High Country Handbell Festival, 9 a.m.– 4 p.m., Blue Ridge Elementary auditorium. To participate in Massed Ringing Concert at 4 p.m., call (336) 246-2787.

Raleigh Ringers

May 16, Warrensville
In concert at Blue Ridge Elementary auditorium, 7:30 p.m. $5 adults, $3 students. (336) 246-2787.

Tweetsie Railroad

May 16, Blowing Rock
Tweetsie Railroad's opening day! Call (828) 264-9061 or 1-800-526-5740 for schedule of events and ticket information.

Lake Norman Festival

May 16, Mooresville
A family affair featuring crafts, exhibits, food, a children's area, a business expo and entertainment throughout the day. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (704)664-3898

Anson Arts & Heritage

May 16, Wadesboro
Southern cooking is the theme. Exhibitors will demonstrate the arts of broom-making and weaving. Shady Grove band at 6 p.m. East Wade Street. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. (704) 695-1644.

Strawberry Festival

May 16, Denver
Crafts, food, entertainment, children's area, auction and strawberries. East Lincoln High School, Hwy. 73. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (704) 483-1471.

Old-Time Square Dance

May 16, Denton
A traditional Appalachian-style square dance at the Denton Civic Center from 7 to 10:30 p.m. Featuring The Oak Tree Boys and Kirk Sutphin & Friends. Dances will be taught. Admission, $4. Children 12 and under, free. No alcohol. (336) 475-9397.

Maypole Festival

May 16, West Jefferson
Music, arts, crafts and a variety of food. Bring a chair. 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Ashe Civic Center. (336) 246-4483.

Butterfly Saturday Festival

May 16, Hudson
Craft vendors, antiques, art, children's rides, entertainment and food. 9a.m. to 2 p.m. Antique car show and parade will kick off the festival on May 15. Street dances and shaggers welcome. (704) 726-1009.

Ole Mill Crank-Up

May 16-17, Sanford
Pottery, antique engine-powered saw mill, basket making, wood carving, gospel and country music, soap making, whiskey still, "Parade of Power" and working grist mill. (919) 776-5428.

Warbirds over Hickory

May 16-17, Hickory
Current and historical warbirds scheduled for fly-in and display. 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Hickory Regional Airport. (704) 437-0541.

Home Show

May 16-17, Maggie Valley
Over 60 exhibitors show the latest in home design, interior design, cooking demonstrations and more. Haywood County Fairgrounds. (828) 452-5194.

Concert

May 21, Winston-Salem
"American Music from the Time of Mary Cassatt" performed by soprano Teresa Radomski and pianist Louis Goldstein. 8 p.m. $5. Reynolda House. (910) 725-5325.

Variety Show

May 22, Mocksville
"Unforgettable," a variety show presented by The Rockaway Rvue in the Brock Performing Arts Center, 7 p.m. (336) 751-3112.

Outdoor Gospel Singing

May 22-23, North of Polkville
Featuring the Golden Valley Crusaders, Master Singers, Path's Crossing, Standing Tall and others. At Ottis Cook Memorial Gospel Music Park. Hwy 226, seven miles north of Polkville. (704) 538-9353.

Bass Tournament

May 23-24, Fairfield
First prize: $1,500. (252) 926-3021. Or write Bass Tournament, Box 204, Fairfield, N.C. 27826.

The Diamonds

May 23, Winston-Salem
Performing your favorite hits from the '50s at the Stevens Center. $19 for adults, $17 for students or seniors. 8 p.m. (910) 721-1945.

"Tea Time"

May 23, Winston-Salem
"Tea Time in the Late 19th Century Women's World," led by Joyce K. Schiller, Reynolda House curator, followed by a birthday party. 2:30 p.m. Reynolda House. (336) 725-5325.

Fossil Festival

May 23-24, Aurora
Find your own shark's teeth or visit a mine site. Also a carnival, food, arts, crafts, singing, dancing, games and more. (252) 322-5227.

Mopars at McDowell

May 23, Marion
Car show featuring Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep & Eagle. Model car contest and lunch. Car entries welcome for $10 on the day of the show. At McDowell Technical College. Admission is free. (704) 659-1428.

Jubilee Arts Festival

May 23, Hendersonville
Arts & crafts fair: visual arts and handicrafts of the NC mountains. Jewelry, birdhouses and feeders, baskets and more. At the Visitors Information Center.
Performing Artist Festival: Bluegrass, gospel, singing, dancing at Jackson Park Amphitheater. (800) 828-4244.

Lake Eden Arts Festival

May 22-24, Black Mountain
Dance, poetry, spiritual workshops, healing arts, handcrafts. Folk, Cajun, R&B, Bluegrass, world and gospel music on four continuous stages. Featuring BR5-49, The Mambo Brothers, Crucial Smith, Eastwhistle, Lloyd Cannady, the Flying Clouds and more. Over 60 performances. At Camp Rockmont. Pre-registration deadline is May 9. (704) 68-MUSIC or e-mail at info@theLEAF.com.

Carl Sandburg Festival

May 25, Hendersonville
Folk music and poetry festival. Instrumentals, storytelling, dances, poetry readings, folk ballads and spiritual songs. On the grounds of the Carl Sandburg home. (828) 693-4178.

Kazoobie Kid's Night

May 28, Shelby
A fun-filled night for kids of all ages. Uptown Shelby on the Court Square. (704) 484-3100.

Photography Weekend

May 29-31, Linville
A Grandfather Mountain photography weekend. Call (800) 4MT-PEAK.

Food & Craft Vendors

Deadline May 29, Danbury
Applications for food and craft vendors and entertainment for the Stokes Stomp, Festival on the Dan to be held Sept. 26-27. Deadlines: entertainment -May 29; food vendors - July 17; craft vendors – June 5. (910) 593-8159.

Celebrity Golf

June 2, West Jefferson
Enjoy a day with your favorite NASCAR drivers at the Ned Jarrett Celebrity Classic Golf Tournament. Jefferson Landing Golf Resort. Shotgun start at 10 a.m. Proceeds benefit the Ashe Civic Center. (336) 246-4483.

Outdoor Drama

June 4-6, 11-13, Polkton
"Sneydsborough: A Ripple in the River" presented by the Anson County Writer's Club. Helen Goodman Amphitheater on the Polkton Campus of Anson Community College. Admission is $7 at the gate, $6 in advance. 7:30 p.m. (704) 694-4181.

"Moon Over Buffalo"

June 5-7, 10-13, Southern Pines
A lively farce that tells the tale of a third-rate stage couple on a disastrous 1953 tour in Buffalo. Presented by Sandhills Little Theatre. Owens Auditorium, Sandhills Community College. Tickets at the door. Shows at 8 p.m. Sunday shows at 2:30 p.m. (910) 692-3799.

Firefly Folk Festival

June 6, Boone
Celebrating our folk heritage on the grounds of "Horn in the West." Musical entertainment by folk pianist Jeff Little, Last Run, Mary Greene and Steve Lewis, the Corn Lickers and more. Storytelling by Orville Hicks, Dianne Hackworth. (800) 852-9506.

Chicken Pickin' Day

June 6, Butner
More than 70 vendors with food, information and games. A top-75 car show and a barbecued chicken cook-off contest. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (919) 575-6691.

Tour de Pets

June 6, Shelby
Third annual metric century (60 mile ride). (704) 435-6699 after 8 p.m.

Civil War Relics

June 6-7, Smyrna, Tenn.
Proceeds benefit the Historic Sam Davis Home. At The Town Centre. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday. Until 3 p.m. on Sunday. Admission, $5; 12 and under, free. (888) 750-9524.

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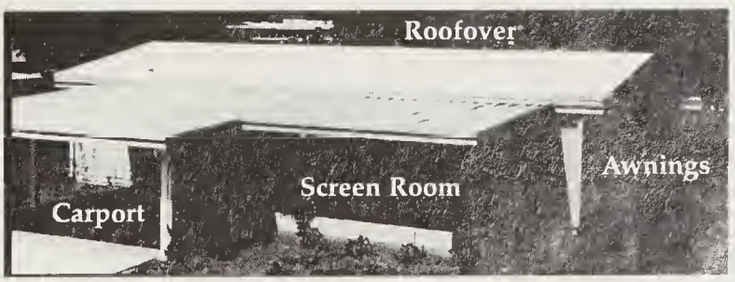

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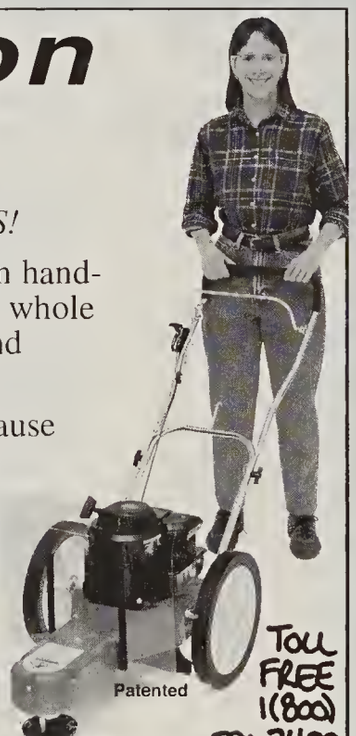
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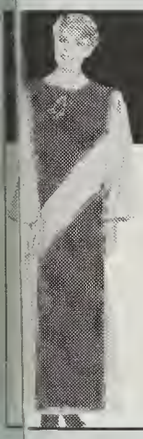

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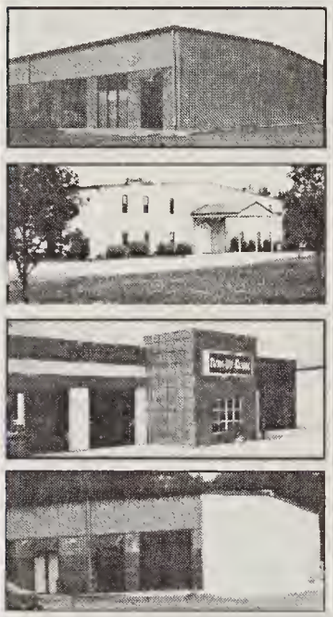

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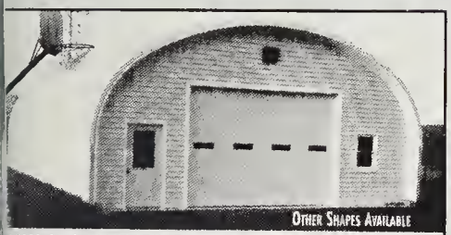

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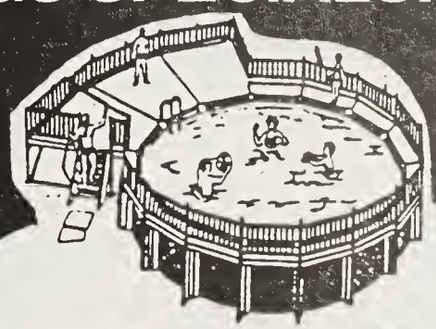

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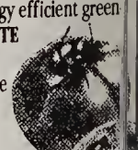

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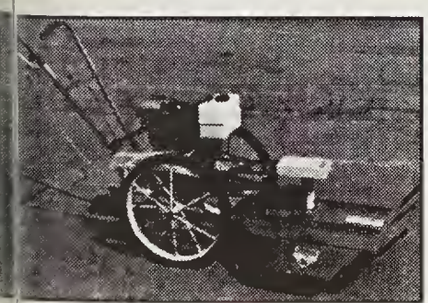

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  R A       NASHH E  H EA     A U
  PITT      S B O HSURRY NH  CAMDEN
  AOYALAMANCELLLEWSAC   D DG    L    C
  SNRU NOSNA O A A   R  E EN    I A  O
  QERG  O  L W D NOSKCAJ  RI C     Y  M
  ULEA  RREDNEPERSONEEEV  SKOH      B
  O L   E NWM  NW    K  E OC ENEERGE
  T L GATESE  WARRENROLEENNO R K  M Y
  A       CLW S    U H I A R O A  ANR
  N   POLK L H  M B ENYAW L  K W  RIE
  K     L  IISA C EGNARO   E E    TLM
  MITCHELL N W ND      R     XE    IKO
  A   N   GC A  O      YREVA  A    NNG
  H B E T O I  WV   DAINAVLYSNART AT
  A U I O  L NCLEVELANDJONES   D   RN
  RR V NNOINU   L  R     C     E   FO
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  O A        ACO  O HEW      L N   R
  H R        AM   LBAR A     S A   R
  N R        MH P  PEML  T   W O   YI
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  E STANLY   IA NOTSAG N H  YADKIN  D
  S          MADISON  M     T     E
  O               H  Y  B  U     S
  N                     E  R
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Hank's gardening guide

by Hank Smith

Gardening activities in May make a sharp reflection of the seasonal change. Summer annuals replace spring-flowering bulbs. Many perennials are beginning to add color to the landscape.

Newly set annuals and vegetables will benefit from temporary shade from branches cut from trees and shrubs. If rain is scarce, water frequently and deeply to encourage development of deep root systems. Enthusiasm runs high this month over containers used for growing plants to add color to porches, patios, and windows. Ferns, trailing vinca, trailing nasturtium, caladium, begonia, dwarf marigold, fuchsia, and cascading petunia are good choices. Keep in mind that when plants are grown in pots, urns, tubs, or boxes they will need careful attention regarding water. Such containers dry out rapidly on warm days. Hanging baskets need even more moisture.

zinnia

Summer pruning

Try summer pruning for bushy, well-shaped plants that will bloom profusely. Summer pruning means pruning as plants grow. Pinch out or clip away growing tips of stems. This causes vigorous new shoots to form. In May or June, summer prune forsythia, mock orange, abelia, deutzia, bush honeysuckle, althea, euonymus, the privets, and other similar shrubs.

Mulching

One garden chore that cannot be left undone is mulching of newly planted boxwoods, azaleas, camellias, and roses. Use any readily available material such as pine needles, straw, old sawdust, grass clippings, and compost. When used, peat moss should be incorporated with another mulch since peat moss alone tends to crust over and prevent water from penetrating the soil.

Vegetables

During periods of no rainfall, water vegetables at least twice a week with a soaker hose to eliminate moist leaves which can induce disease growth. Keep garden well mulched. Inspect underside of leaves and inside blooms for signs of insect pests to be controlled with proper insecticides. Tomato plants produce suckers, growth shoots that emerge between a leaf and the stem. Suckers can be rooted to form young plants that will extend the tomato season. Suckers contain immature blooms that develop as the young plants mature. As with larger tomato plants, set suckers so lower leaves are at soil level. Always work a bit of lime into soil when planting tomatoes. This helps prevent the mature fruit from splitting.

May mini-tips

1. Make soft-wood cuttings of germanium, coleus, begonia, and impatiens (sultana). Root in sand box and keep moist but don't soak. 2. Plant tender bulbs such as caladium, dahlia, canna, tuberose, and gladiolus. 3. As soon as leaves yellow, dig spring-flowering bulbs. Divide clumps and reset, or place in storage. 4. Sow seeds for flowering annuals such as balsam, marigold, cosmos, tithonia, nicotinia, alyssum, and zinnia for summer and fall blooms. Mass one color together for greater landscape impact. 5. Cut away a few older canes (stems) of fast-growing nandina. Cut at ground level to encourage new growth to fill in the base. 6. Pinch the tip growth of chrysanthemum plants to force compact growth and encourage side shoots to produce more blooms in autumn. 7. Place house plants in shady outdoor spot as among shrubs, so they can rejuvenate under natural growing conditions. 8. Check sharpness of lawnmower blade to be certain it is not chewing grass blades instead of making a clean cut. Ragged edges can encourage disease growth.

Extend life of cut flowers

Professional flower designers discourage the use of aspirin in water to prolong the life of cut flowers. Instead, try one of these methods: 1. Dissolve six tablespoons of sugar and one tablespoon of vinegar in five cups of warm water. Use in containers. Stems take up warm water faster than cold water. 2. Mix one tablespoon laundry bleach in a quart of warm water. Both methods slow down bacterial and fungal growth.

Squash for flowers

Inexpensive, fast-growing squash plants add interest and color to gaps in the flower garden. Crook-neck squash has coarse-textured foliage and large yellow blooms. Be sure to choose a bush rather than a vine type that will run all over the garden. Zucchini plants have silver mottling on leaves that can be especially attractive. Although squash plants will not last all summer, you can plant seed again and have a replacement in only a few weeks.

Regular spray program for roses

The most damaging diseases for roses are black spot, powdery mildew and canker. Black spot appears as circular black spots on leaves. Spots are 1/8 to 1/2 inch in diameter. It can show up any time of the year when plants are in leaf, and causes heavy leaf drop. Powdery mildew shows up as white, fluffy, moldy growth in young shoots and leaves. It is worst in spring and fall. Canker appears as colored areas on stems during winter and spring. As cankers enlarge, entire stems can be killed. All diseases can be controlled by the same fungicides.

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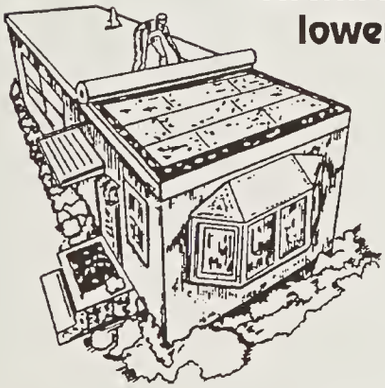

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Journal

by Owen Bishop

Travel tip:

Try spoken-word audio-tapes as an alternative to radio roulette

As you begin making your travel plans for the months ahead, here's a suggestion that can help relieve the monotony of long hours on the road: take along some spoken-word tapes. They can offer a nice change of pace from music, and they're far more reliable than scan-the-dial radio roulette.

If you've sampled such tapes, you know they can be a great way to break out of the mind-numbing boredom that often comes with extended road trips. Without such diversions, I find that long drives can often dampen my excitement about a pleasure trip, although I may start out enthusiastic about the itinerary and the prospect of a restful change of scene. And, of course, the tapes can be even more effective as a way to enliven an otherwise dull day of routine business travel.

I enjoy music while driving too, but this kind of audio entertainment just doesn't hold my attention for very long. For me, it soon begins to fade into the background in a way that spoken-word materials don't.

Maybe subconsciously I relate this listening experience to the many happy hours I spent as a child, listening to my parents read aloud to me. Perhaps it's linked to my pleasant memories of Story Time in grammar school, when the students could settle back and relax while our teacher read to us.

Or, at the risk of dating myself, I could admit that these tapes may have revived a drug-free addiction of my youth. I was absolutely hooked on radio dramas and comedy shows. I wouldn't have used those terms then of course, but I think I did get a kind of "high" with my ear glued to our Philco radio. And I didn't want to miss any of the adventures of Superman, the Lone Ranger, or Lamont Cranston ("The Shadow knows.....") and other luminaries of those audio-only productions.

Those listening experiences exercised my imagination in a way the MTV generation could never understand. Somehow these spoken-word tapes, many of which feature dramatic performances of sorts by talented actors, have the same effect. And if they can give you this kind of audio "fix" while driving, they just might reduce your stress level as you maneuver through traffic on a busy interstate.

In any case, I'm clearly hooked on these tapes now, and I try to take some along whenever I'm on the road. I've tried novels, essays, inspirational messages, memoirs and sermons recorded at my own church. Some of them have never really stirred my imagination. Others have held my interest but then left me disappointed, wondering if the original material had been severely damaged by the abridgement/recording process.

Yet some of these tapes have turned out to be bright little gems — tales or commentary that could be intriguing, thought provoking, touching or funny. Some can be all of the above. In case you're looking for such gems to enliven your travels, I thought I'd list a few I've enjoyed along with brief descriptions.

If you have a short list of gems you've discovered, I hope you'll send it to me so we can include some reader recommendations in a future column. Mail them to Journal, P. O. Box 27306, Raleigh, NC 27611-7306 or you can send them via e-mail to: owen.bishop@ncemcs.com.

Here are my current favorites:

A Life on the Road by Charles Kuralt (Simon and Schuster Audioworks - Read by the author) - This is great stuff for a Kuralt fan like me. But even if you're not a fan, you would enjoy this memoir tracing the highlights of the newsman's life and career, with lots of behind-the-scenes anecdotes from his "On the Road" travels for CBS. You get Kuralt's warm, familiar voice reciting his own prose — recalling people and events in colorful detail. I believe that makes this version of the book an even richer experience than you'd find in reading the original volume.

Sleeping at the Starlite Motel by Bailey White (Simon and Schuster Audioworks - Read by the author) - Ms. White is a Georgia school teacher who has been a regular commentator for National Public Radio's "All Things Considered." These tapes feature selections from her second book of such essays, describing some of her most memorable adventures and a fascinating assortment of characters. I was especially amused by her account of how she and a fellow teacher skipped a dull computer class — to go to the dog races! They found the experience anything but boring.

Cold Sassy Tree by Olive Ann Burns (Bantam-Doubleday Audio - Read by Richard Thomas, "John Boy" of TV's Walton family) - This is an engaging tale of family tensions in a small Georgia town at the turn of the century. I found this to be one of the best audio treatments of a novel that I've encountered. When I listened to it I had not read the book but I had seen the TV movie based on the book. Yet Thomas' interpretation (with a little help from my imagination) brought the story more vividly to life than the movie had.

Miss Daisy by Donald Davis (August House - Read by the author) - Davis is a professional storyteller and novelist who lives on Ocracoke Island. Many of his stories draw on his memories of his childhood in Haywood County. This tape includes two profiles of remarkable women who touched his life. One is "Miss Daisy" Bowen, who was in her 42nd year of teaching when Davis was assigned to her fourth grade classroom. Yet she eagerly led Davis and his classmates on an imaginary journey around the world, allowing the students to "learn by doing" while their standard textbooks sat unopened in a corner. (If you can't find this tape, you can order a copy by calling August House toll-free at 800-284-8784. Its retail price is $12.)

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- Fresh, uncooked eggs are OK refrigerated for four or five weeks after their pack date. *(Hard-cooked eggs are OK in the refrigerator for up to one week.)*
- The egg yolk contains 69 different essential nutrients for your body.
- A University of Arizona study recently compiled results of 224 cholesterol studies among 8,000 participants over the past 25 years. Conclusion: If you're healthy, go ahead and enjoy eggs. Your cholesterol probably will remain the same.

Source: N.C. Egg Association

For more information and recipes, contact North Carolina Egg Association, 1150 SE Maynard Rd., Suite 130, Cary, NC 27511. Phone: (919) 319-1195.

Homestyle Good Morning Casserole

Serves 4 to 6

4 bread slices, crust trimmed
6 eggs
1 1/ 2 cups skim milk
4 slices cooked turkey bacon, crumbled
1/4 cup shredded low-fat Swiss cheese, divided
1/4 cup shredded low-fat cheddar cheese, divided
1/3 cup sliced mushrooms
1/4 teaspoon seasoned salt
1/2 cup frozen shredded hash brown potatoes

Place bread slices, slightly overlapping, in bottom of lightly greased 9 by 9-inch baking dish. In large bowl, thoroughly combine eggs, milk, bacon, 2 tablespoons Swiss cheese, 2 tablespoons cheddar cheese, mushrooms and salt. Pour mixture over bread slices. Sprinkle potatoes over mixture and top with remaining Swiss and cheddar cheese. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Bake at 350 degrees F., uncovered, until lightly browned and knife inserted near center comes out clean (about 40 to 45 minutes).

Nutritional Information
per serving (1/6 recipe)
Calories (210), protein (14g.), fat (10 g.), carbohydrotes (15 g.), calcium (199mg.), phosphoraus (249mg.), iran (2mg.), sodium (358mg.), potossium (272mg.), chalesteral (230mg.)

Elegant Egg Roll-Up

Serves 6

6 eggs, separated
1/4 teaspoon pepper
1/4 teaspoon salt
3 tablespoons flour
Non-stick cooking spray
1 1/2 cups sliced zucchini
1 1/2 cups sliced mushrooms
1/2 cup diced red peppers
1/4 cup chopped onions
Salt to taste
Pepper to taste
1 1/4 cups skim milk
1/2 cup grated low-fat cheddar cheese
Chopped parsley

In mixing bowl, combine yolks, pepper and salt; beat well. Beat in flour until smooth. In separate bowl, beat egg whites until stiff; fold into egg yolk mixture. With a non-stick cooking spray, grease bottom of 15 by 10 by 1-inch jelly-roll pan, line with wax parchment paper, grease again. Pour egg mixture into pan and spread to 1 / 2 inch thickness to edges. Bake in preheated 350-degree oven for 8 minutes.

Immediately invert onto clean sheet of wax paper. Remove pan; peel off paper.

Spray skillet with cooking spray. Add vegetables; cook until crisp-tender. Season with salt and pepper. Gently heat milk and spoon 3 /4 cup over egg layer. Sprinkle 1 / 4 cup cheese and vegetables over the milk. Starting with long side, roll jelly-roll style, keeping filling inside. Place roll in a shallow baking pan with seam down. Drizzle remaining milk over and around vegetable roll. Sprinkle remaining cheese over roll and bake in preheated 375-degree oven for 10 to 12 minutes. Garnish with chopped parsley and serve.
For a spicier dish, top the roll with salsa.

Nutrient Composition
per serving (1/6 recipe)
Calaries (152), protein (12g.), fat (7g.), carbahydrates (9g.), calcium (180mg.), phaspharous (177mg.), iran (1mg.), sodium (248mg.), patossium (326mg.), chalesterol (220mg.)

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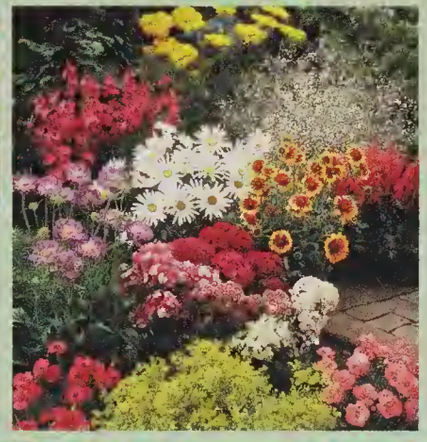

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